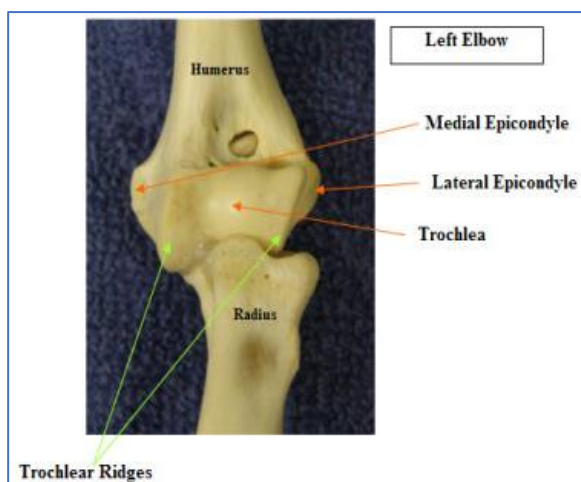


Pre-Operative Information: Fracture Fixation – Lateral Humeral Condyle

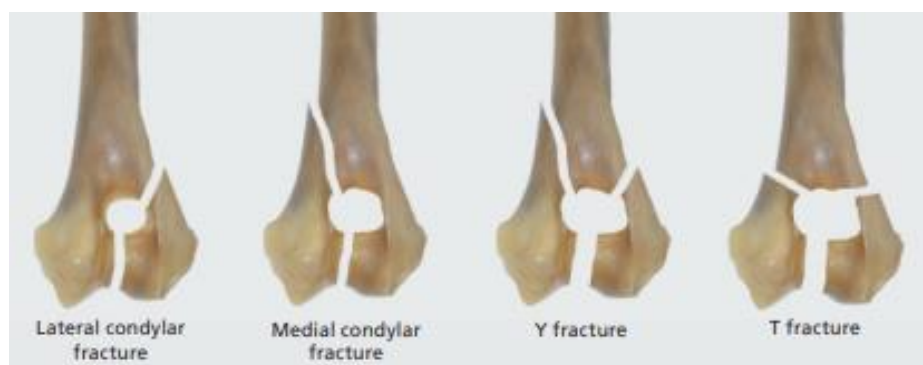
Price: from £3,600 (including VAT, March 2024)



The humeral condyle is the name given to the lower end of the bone (called the humerus) at the top of the front leg (the forelimb). Together with the radius and ulna (the two bones of the forearm), the humeral condyle makes up the elbow joint. Fractures of the humeral condyle are amongst the most common type of broken bones seen in dogs. They also occur in cats, but less commonly.

In young dogs that jump down from a height it is not uncommon for the forces travelling up the limb, when the animal lands, to cause a fracture through the trochlea between the two condyles and out of one or both sides of the humerus, above one or both epicondyles. In some dogs, there is an inherent weakness between the condyles, known as a **humeral condylar fissure**. This weakness can cause a fracture during normal exercise. This type of fracture is more common in spaniel breeds. Fractures

often involve one side of the condyle with the outside (lateral) aspect being more frequently involved than the inside (medial) aspect. However, in some dogs both sides of the condyle can fracture in a 'Y' or 'T' shaped configuration.



Y and T fractures are more complicated. While conventional x-rays are sufficient to confirm a diagnosis in most cases, CT can be valuable when planning for such complicated surgeries. We are currently unable to offer these procedures at Oakhill, but are happy to discuss these cases and direct you to a Specialist who can

help.

Surgery is the best treatment for humeral condylar fractures. The operation involves repositioning the bone fragments back into the correct place and stabilising them. A large trans-condylar screw is used to stabilise the condylar fissure/fracture, while a pin or plate and screws is employed to stabilise the fracture(s) above the medial/lateral epicondyle(s). Fracture fragments need to accurately reconstructed due to their involvement with the joint, so as to minimise the subsequent development of osteoarthritis. Surgery, in combination with exceptional postoperative care, rehabilitation and weight management can provide a good outcome and prognosis for dogs with humeral condylar fractures.

For more information or to discuss this surgery in more detail with one of our veterinary surgeons please contact the practice on 01539488555 or visit the referrals section of our website at www.oakhillvetgroup.co.uk



What is included?

At Oakhill Vets we strive to ensure our orthopaedic surgeries are 'all inclusive' and so INCLUDE the following:

- Prehabilitation consultation in our state-of-the-art Animal Rehabilitation Centre (ARC)
- Pre-anaesthetic blood screen
- Hospitalisation (up to 24 hours)*
- Intravenous fluids during the anaesthetic and surgery
- General Anaesthesia / Sedation
- Surgery (including implants)*
- Post-operative medication (for up to three weeks)
- 24-hour post-operative laser / cold-pack treatment / physiotherapy
- Week one post-operative rehabilitation consultation and rehabilitation plan (in the ARC)

*Fractures are often injuries caused by severe trauma and so are commonly not found in isolation. Fractures are rarely immediately life threatening and so it is important that a thorough assessment of the patient is made before embarking on fracture fixation surgery. The cost of fracture repair does not include stabilisation of the patient and/or treatment of other injuries, which may require additional diagnostics, treatments and/or prolonged hospitalisation.

Complications and what is not included?

Post-operative x-rays are advised around 6-8 weeks post-operatively. These are not included in the price of the surgery. Post-operative complications associated with fracture fixation are uncommon, but can occur. While we endeavour to give you an up-front, all-inclusive estimate, when it comes to pets recovering from fracture surgery, there is unfortunately an element of unpredictability! Treatments not included because of unexpected complications include (but are not limited to):

- Implant specific: Screw loosening and implant failure/infection (in particular the large trans-condylar screw)
- non-union of fracture (Note: in cases of humeral condylar fissure, union may not return)
- Self-trauma by pet to surgical site
- Post-operative wound infection
- Post-operative fracture complications

Rehabilitation

We strongly advise rehabilitation in our Animal Rehabilitation Centre (ARC) following this surgery. We offer patients that have had surgery at Oakhill an amazing and heavily discounted 12-week post-operative rehabilitation package. Please see our ARC price list for details.

Payment Options

Payment is expected in full at the time of consultation or upon discharge from Oakhill Vets. If your pet is insured we would request that you pay for their treatment and claim the funds back from your insurance company. Once you have settled the cost of any treatment we can help you complete your insurance claim form(s) at no additional charge. Direct claims may be arranged with some insurance companies and are subject to a check with our referral coordinators prior to your appointment. An administration fee is chargeable each time a direct claim is carried out by our referral coordinators. If you have any concerns about payment then please contact us prior to your consultation.

Why choose Oakhill Veterinary Referrals?

Oakhill Vets is based in Windermere in the beautiful Lake District. We are happy to take referrals from clients further afield. Let our friendly, highly skilled and experienced team of Veterinary Surgeons and Registered Veterinary Nurses look after your pet while you relax and enjoy a short break in The Lakes. For more details please phone the practice and speak to one of our helpful referral coordinators on 015394 88555.