Le fort fracture

**Le Fort fractures** are fractures of the midface, which collectively involve separation of all or a portion of the midface from the [skull base](https://radiopaedia.org/articles/base-of-the-skull?lang=gb). In order to be separated from the skull base, the [pterygoid plates](https://radiopaedia.org/articles/pterygoid-processes?lang=gb) of the [sphenoid bone](https://radiopaedia.org/articles/sphenoid-bone?lang=gb) need to be involved as these connect the midface to the sphenoid bone dorsally. The Le Fort classification system attempts to distinguish according to the plane of injury.

**Practical points**

* fracture of the **pterygoid plates** is mandatory to diagnose Le Fort fractures
* anterolateral margin of the nasal fossa involvement
  + if fractured, it is a type I fracture
  + if intact, it excludes a type I fracture
* inferior orbital rim involvement
  + if fractured, it is a type II fracture
  + if intact, it excludes a type II fracture
* zygomatic arch involvement
  + if fractured, it is a type III fracture
  + if intact, it excludes a type III fracture
* nasofrontal suture involvement indicates either a type II or III fracture
* a combination of fractures may occur on the same side
* bilateral fractures may be asymmetric 2
* may occur with other non-Le Fort fractures of the face and skull