

# These Patients Knee'd Your Help

Knee pain, fracture, and dislocation are common consequences of car accidents and falls, but differentiating between x-rays can be an obstacle of its own. Four patients, four diagnoses—can you identify the problem represented in each radiograph?

- Match the primary diagnosis to the photo by letter**
- a. Medially dislocated distal femur
  - b. Nondisplaced proximal fibula fracture
  - c. Lateral dislocation of the patella
  - d. Comminuted and depressed fracture of the lateral tibial plateau



**1.** A 23-year-old man is brought in after being hit by a car. There is a moderate amount of soft tissue swelling around the knee, with limited flexion and extension due to pain. He can wiggle his toes, and there appears to be no neurovascular compromise.



**2.** A 20-year-old man presents after his car was broadsided by another vehicle. His air bag deployed, and the patient now complains of right-side chest wall pain and right knee pain. Inspection of his right knee shows some joint deformity, with mild swelling and moderate tenderness. The patient is unable to perform flexion with his right knee. Good distal pulses are present, and sensation is intact.

**3.** A 70-year-old woman presents for evaluation of right knee pain secondary to a fall. When she tripped and fell, all her weight landed on her right knee; she says it is now “extremely painful” to bear weight on that leg. Inspection of her right knee shows no obvious deformity but a moderate amount of swelling and limited range of motion. She also has moderate tenderness circumferentially around the knee. There is additional swelling and mild bruising on both the medial and lateral aspects of the right ankle.



**4.** A 28-year-old man is brought to you by EMS for evaluation after a motor vehicle accident. The patient was an unrestrained driver in a truck that went off the road into a ditch. The paramedics state that he was partially ejected, with his left leg caught in the window. He complains of back and left leg pain. Primary survey shows no obvious injury. Secondary survey reveals moderate swelling and decreased range of motion in the left knee. Good distal pulses are present.



Answers to last month's "Picture This" (*Clinician Reviews*. 2016;26[9]:55): 1b, 2a, 3d, 4c

**For answers, see next issue; for discussion, go to [www.mdedge.com/clinicianreviews/picture](http://www.mdedge.com/clinicianreviews/picture)**