

# Simultaneous dislocation of the proximal and distal radioulnar joints

## A case report

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A 34-year-old man was struck on his left arm by a heavy piece of wood. Clinical and radiographic examinations revealed anterior dislocation of the radial head and palmar dislocation of the ulnar head. Under general anesthesia both dislocations were reduced and the arm was immobilized in a plaster cast in supination for 5 weeks. 5 months after the injury, the patient had normal motion in both the wrist and elbow and returned to his previous occupation as a wood-cutter. At reexamination 4 years later, he had no pain and no instability in his wrist or elbow.

### Discussion

Subluxation or dislocation of the distal radioulnar joint with concurrent fracture or dislocation of the radial head is a rare injury, which occurs in about 7 percent of forearm injuries and is sometimes overlooked (Edwards and Jupiter 1988, Bruckner et al. 1992). The mechanism may be an indirect longitudi-

nal force on the outstretched hand or flexed elbow that finally provokes rupture of the interosseous membrane, triangular fibrocartilage complex and annular ligament (Palmer and Werner 1984, Schiller et al. 1991). The humeroulnar and the radiocarpal joints are not affected and, as there are no fractures, this injury maybe called a Monteggia-Galezzi injury.

### References

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