

# Foot Trauma- Column Concept When/ How to stabilize

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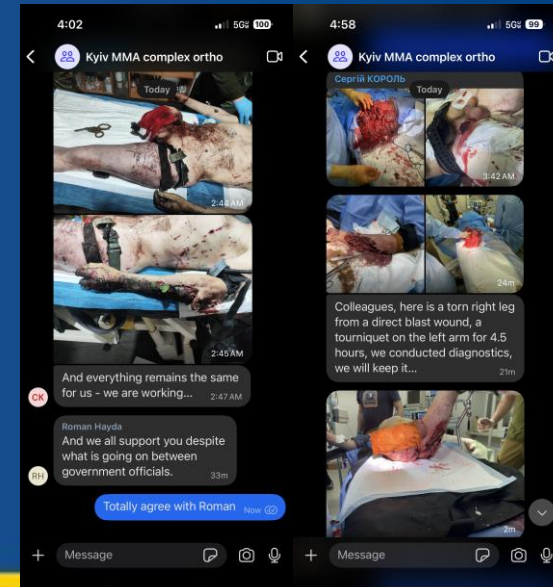
# Conflict of Interest Disclosure

James R. Ficke



- I have no financial conflicts with this presentation
- Disclosures:
  - *Research Funding: NIH; U.S. Dept of Defense*
    - Balmoral; Stryker- Transdermal COMPRESS
    - DT MedTech- Prospective Trial H3 Total Ankle
  - *Board of Directors, ABOS; Team Red White Blue*
  - *Board of Trustees, OREF*

I STILL use Signal APP:



ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY



# Principles

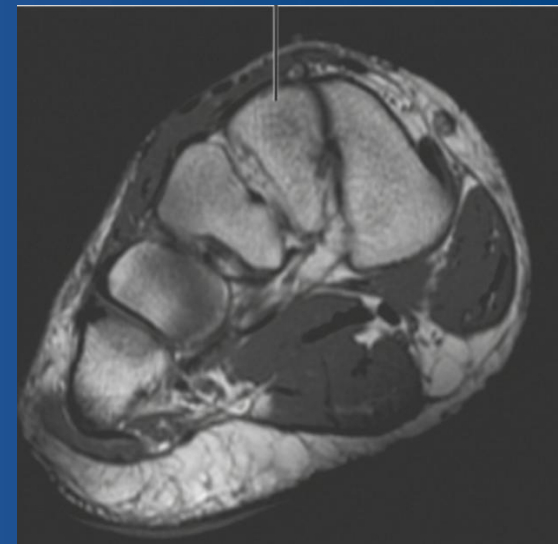
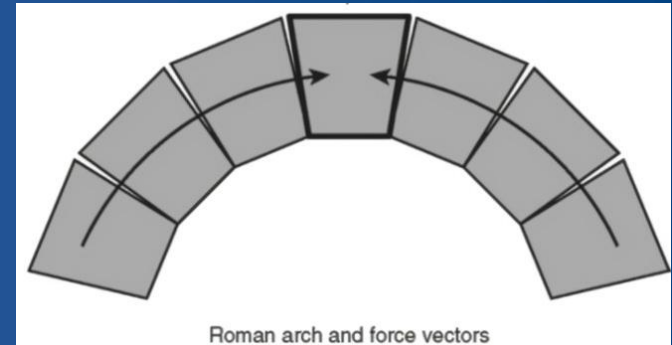
- Anatomic Considerations
- Early Recognition “snakes”
- Techniques, Tips, Tricks
- Sequelae, Outcomes





# Midfoot Anatomy

- Medial column
- Intermediate column
- Lateral column



# Dynamic Function

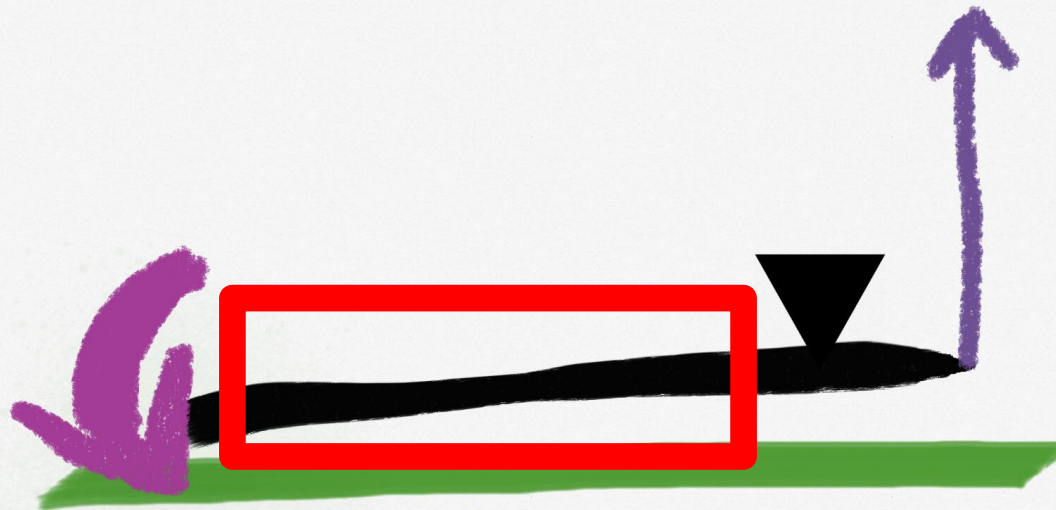
- Heel Strike- flexible
  - *Absorb energy*
  - *Accept weight*
- Push off- Rigid
  - *Power lever*
  - *Impart energy*



# Strengthen Lever Arm

?

≡



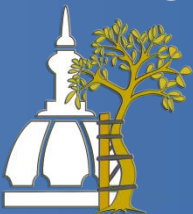
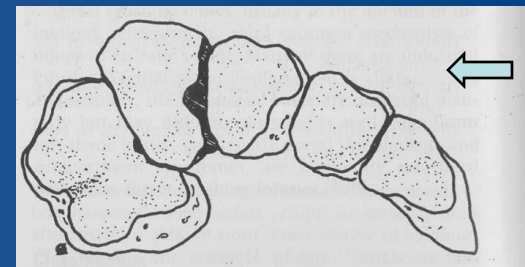
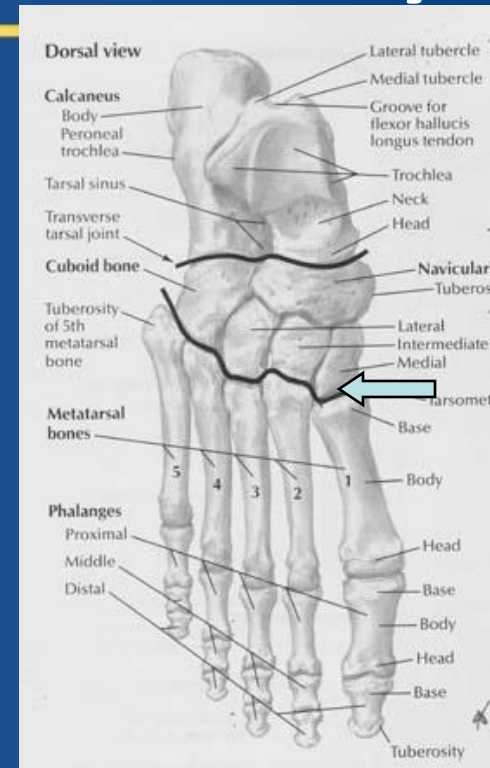
The cuneiforms are essential for converting **force** into **torque**

Kamron Hamid 2022



# Midfoot- Bony Anatomy

- TMT articulation (*Lisfranc*)
- Intrinsic stability
  - *roman arch- dorsal surface wider*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> MT
  - *keystone of arch, mortise configuration*
  - *No significant dislocation can occur unless 2<sup>nd</sup> MT is disrupted*



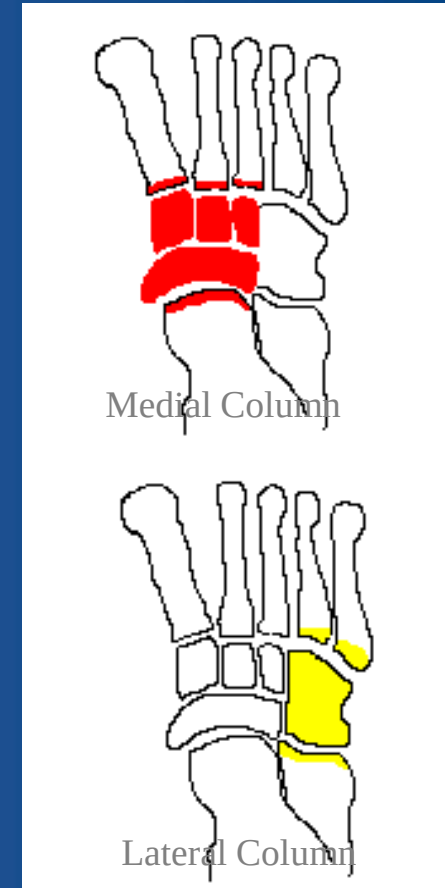
# Extreme Forces





# Column Injuries -Treatment

- Apply Principles of anatomic reduction and rigid fixation
- **Medial** and **lateral** column should be stable and balanced
- Avoid operating through Markedly Swollen tissue (usually 7+ days for tissue swelling to settle)



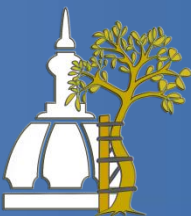
# Early Recognition

- Instability
- Open injury
- Vascular Injury
- Skin Compromise



# Midfoot Fractures - Prognosis

- Guarded – often severe soft-tissue injury
- Poorer prognosis w/ T-N disrupted
- Better w/ early treatment- rigid ORIF, early motion



# Soft Tissue Considerations

- Thin skin, minimal overlying muscle
- Free tissue transfer options:
  - *radial forearm flap*
  - *medial sural artery perforator flap*
  - *anterolateral thigh flap*
  - *pedicled TFL flap*
  - *gracilis flap*
  - *latissimus dorsi flap*



Noaman, Soroor. Foot salvage using microsurgical free muscle flaps in severely crushed foot with soft tissue defects. Injury 50S5 (2019) s17-S20.

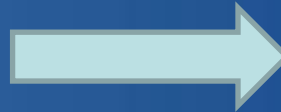




# Soft Tissue Considerations



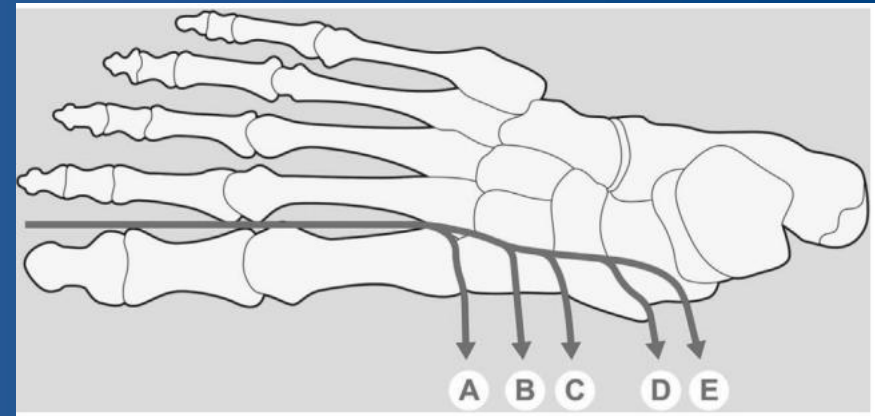
6 weeks postop



Medial sural artery  
perforator flap

# Medial Column Injuries

- Dissipation of energy
  - *Through Joints*
  - *Fractures*
- Key to restore length
- Stability of medial arch



# Beware Column Disruption



# Medial Column Navicular Fracture Types

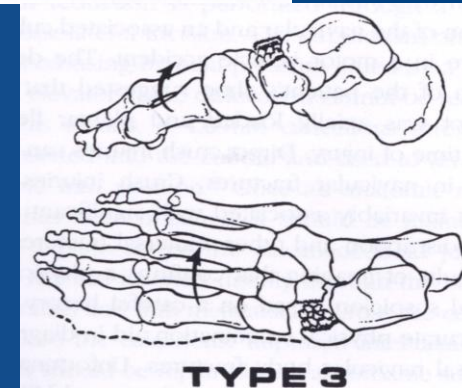
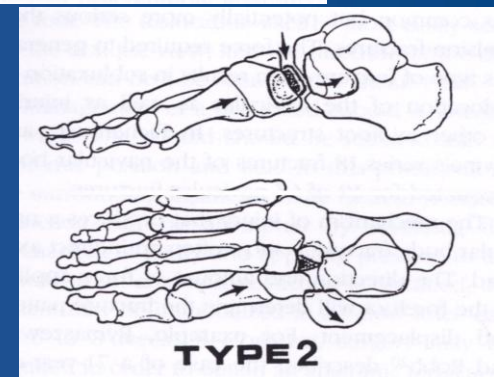
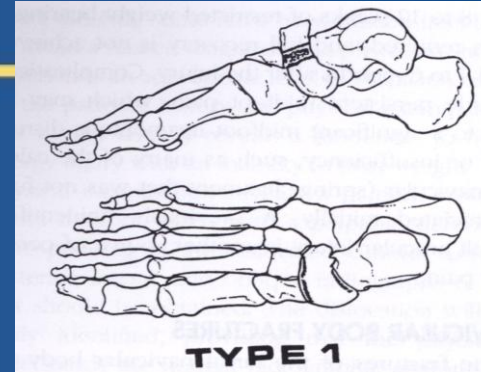
- Avulsion Fracture
  - *Most common*
  - *Avulsed by ligament or Posterior Tibial Tendon*
- Body Fracture
  - *Higher energy – more often requires ORIF*



# Navicular Body Fracture



JOHNS HOPKINS  
MEDICINE



## Classification

- Type 1
  - Transverse
- Type 2
  - Adduction
  - dorsolateral to plantar medial Fx
- Type 3
  - Abduction
  - lateral or central comminution





# Case Example



JOHNS HOPKINS  
MEDICINE

- 26 y.o male
- Motorcycle accident
- Adduction injury
- Midfoot swelling
- Neurovascular intact



# Body Fracture - Treatment

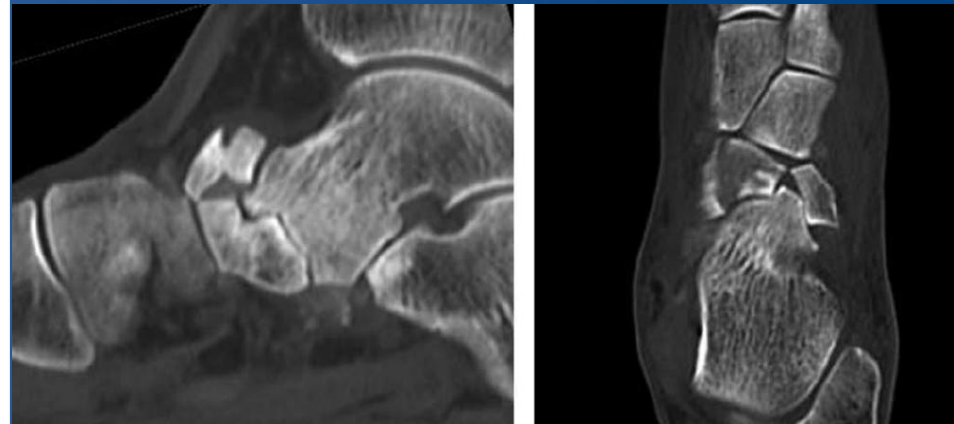
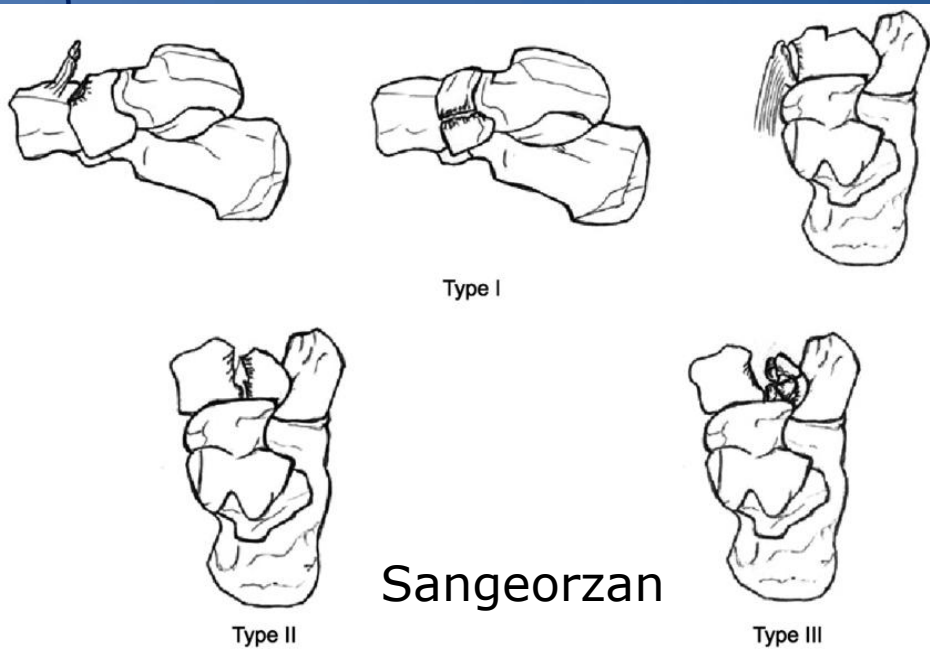
- Anatomic reduction- preserve TN
- Stable fixation
- Bone graft as necessary
- Immobilize 8-12 weeks
- PT after healing is complete
- TN arthrodesis delayed



# Navicular Body Fractures—Surgical Treatment and Radiographic Results

Roy Sanders, MD\*† and Rafael Serrano, MD†  
J Orthop Trauma 2020;34:S38–S44)

- 126 body fractures 10 yr pd
  - 12/18 Schmidt II healed (67%)
  - 3/21 Schmidt III healed
  - Uniformly Poor Prognosis



# Lisfranc Injury

## Ligamentous Injury

## Radiographs

- Often negative
- WB x-rays if possible
- Check alignment
  - Medial 2<sup>nd</sup> MT – middle cuneiform
  - Medial 4<sup>th</sup> MT – cuboid
  - Dorsal MT base – Dorsal tarsal bone (lateral)



# Restoring anatomy medial / intermediate column

- First metatarsal varus and plantarflexion
- Probe intercuneiform joint for instability
- Medial column carries 40-50% body weight during stance
- Use radiographic markers
- Constructs: plates vs screws





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# Outcome Studies

Ly et al JBJS 2006

- Compared primary arthrodesis with ORIF in pure ligamentous injuries. 20-ORIF/ 21-arthrodesis
- F/U 42.5 mos.
- Arthrodesis group reached 92% pre-injury activity level
- ORIF group 65% pre-injury level.

Rammelt et al JBJS 2008

- Comparative Study 22 primary ORIF with 22 delayed arthrodesis F/U mean 22 months
- AOFAS scores in the group fixed primarily vs delayed fusion (AOFAS mean 81 versus 72;  $p = 0.031$ )



# Does Open Reduction and Internal Fixation versus Primary Arthrodesis Improve Patient Outcomes for Lisfranc Trauma? A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

Nicholas Smith MD, MSc, Craig Stone MD, MSc, FRCSC,

Andrew Furey MD, MSc, FRCSC

Clin Orthop Relat Res (2016) 474:1445–1452

- *Outcomes Appear similar*
- *High performance Athletes/ younger patients RTP*
  - **Fixation preferred**

Article



## Open Reduction Internal Fixation vs Primary Arthrodesis for Displaced Lisfranc Injuries: A Multicenter Randomized Controlled Trial

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2024, Vol. 45(6) 612–620  
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# Key Points

- Recognize injury patterns
- Assess entire medial column stability
- CT scan essential- timing
- Achieve alignment and length
- Spanning fixation preferred
- Consider arthrodesis (not always!)

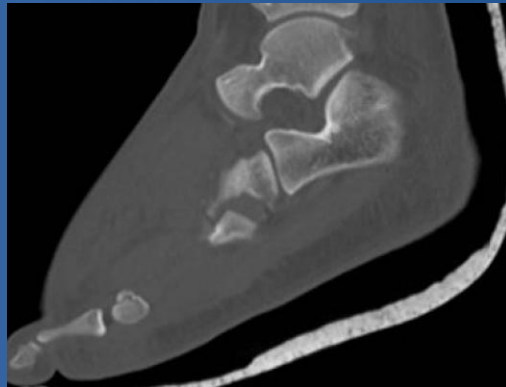




# Lateral Column

## Cuboid fracture/TMT dislocation

- 25M, s/p 2 story fall
- Closed injury



# Cuboid fracture/TMT dislocation



# Cuboid fracture/TMT dislocation (6 months after surgery)



# Summary

- Often delayed recognition in Polytrauma
- ALWAYS prioritize & respect soft tissues
- Medial Column- Stability (fusion may be ok)
  - Talus, Navicular, Cuneiforms, Lisfranc
  - Rigid Fixation, Bridge Plating, Arthrodesis
- Lateral Column- Mobility (Length/ alignment)
  - *Calcaneus, Cuboid, 4,5 Metatarsals*
  - *Pinning, bridge plating- early removal, Ex Fix*





Thank you!

