

4.7 Pelvis

- The majority of pelvic fractures in the young result from severe trauma
- These patients must be treated along ATLS guidelines
- The elderly often fracture the pubic rami after minor falls
- If the elderly are involved in major trauma they are likely to have serious pelvic fractures with a high mortality
- Visceral injuries must be sought for in all patients with pelvic fractures.

SITE OF INJURY	LOOK OUT FOR	1e MANAGEMENT	DISPOSAL
Avulsion # (athletes)		symptomatic	ROD or A&E RC
# blade ilium	intra-abdominal injury	analgesia	Ortho TC
Unilateral # pubic ramus	urethral injury	analgesia, mobility test	ROD or Ortho 2C
Bilateral # pubic ramus	urethral injury, bladder injury		Ortho 2C
"open book" #	severe blood loss - may be >20units	emergency (resus room) external fixation by Orthos	Orthos 2c stat
Acetabular # incl central dislocation hip	associated distal #, severe retroperitoneal haemorrhage	observe for shock, X match + blood replacement	TCI Ortho