

Condyle Neck & Condyle Head Fractures

Fractures of the mandibular condyle — the small joint surface at the top of the jawbone — affect how the jaw opens, closes and bites. Because the condyle sits right at the temporomandibular joint (TMJ), even small displacements can affect bite and jaw movement, so assessment and treatment are planned around the specific fracture pattern seen on imaging.

Mr Bhatti is the only surgeon offering open management of Condyle head fractures in London.

With a research interest in jaw joint injuries this is a particular passion for Mr Bhatti

Overview

Restoring jaw function and joint alignment after injury

The mandibular condyle is the rounded projection at the top of the lower jaw that forms part of the jaw joint (TMJ). Fractures here are described by location — **condylar head** fractures occur within the joint itself (intracapsular), while **condylar neck** fractures occur just below it — and by how displaced or dislocated the fragment is. This distinction, along with the degree of displacement, guides whether treatment is managed with a period of guided bite closure (splinting) or with surgical repositioning and fixation.

Imaging — usually CT — is used to define the fracture precisely before any decision is made, since the position of the condylar fragment relative to the joint socket has a direct bearing on long-term bite, joint function and jaw growth (particularly in younger patients).

- Restoring jaw opening, closing and bite alignment
- Protecting long-term TMJ function
- Assessment tailored to fracture level and displacement, not a one-size-fits-all approach

At a Glance

- **Focus:** Condyle neck & condyle head fracture treatment
- **Anaesthetic:** General (*for surgical fixation; closed/conservative management may not require theatre — [confirm wording per typical caseload]*)
- **Hospital stay:** Day case – 2 nights
- **Recovery:** [confirm typical range — often longer than routine facial fracture recovery given TMJ rehabilitation]
- **Planning:** CT-guided assessment
- **Consultation:** Urgent, by arrangement

Is It Right For You

You may be a candidate for assessment if...

- You have a suspected fracture of the jaw joint following injury (fall, assault, sports injury, RTC)
- Your bite feels different or doesn't meet evenly since the injury
- You have jaw pain, restricted opening, or your jaw deviates when you open your mouth

- You were treated elsewhere and problems with bite or jaw movement remain

"With condylar fractures, the priority is protecting the joint. Some fractures settle well with careful, guided management; others need surgical repositioning. The right path depends entirely on where the fracture sits and how displaced it is." — Mr Nabeel Bhatti

The Process

How your treatment unfolds

Urgent assessment & imaging CT imaging defines the exact level of the fracture and degree of displacement or dislocation.

Treatment planning Depending on the fracture pattern, treatment is either guided closed management or surgical fixation — the approach is matched to the specific injury.

Treatment Performed or supervised by Mr Bhatti, with the joint's long-term function as the guiding priority.

Recovery & review Structured follow-up, including monitored jaw exercises, supports a return to normal opening and bite.

Recovery & Outcomes

What to expect afterwards

The first days Swelling and jaw stiffness are expected; discomfort is well controlled.

The first weeks A staged return to normal eating and jaw movement, with guided exercises where appropriate to protect joint mobility.

Longer term Bite and jaw function are reviewed over the following months to confirm the joint has settled well.

Common Questions

Condyle Neck & Condyle Head Fractures, answered

Does every condylar fracture need surgery? No. Many are managed successfully without surgery, depending on the level of the fracture and how displaced it is. This is assessed on imaging on a case-by-case basis.

Will this affect my bite permanently? The aim of treatment, surgical or non-surgical, is to protect normal bite and joint function. Regular review during recovery checks that the bite is settling correctly.

Can you treat fractures first seen elsewhere? Yes. Mr Bhatti regularly reviews patients treated elsewhere, including cases where bite or jaw movement problems remain after initial treatment.