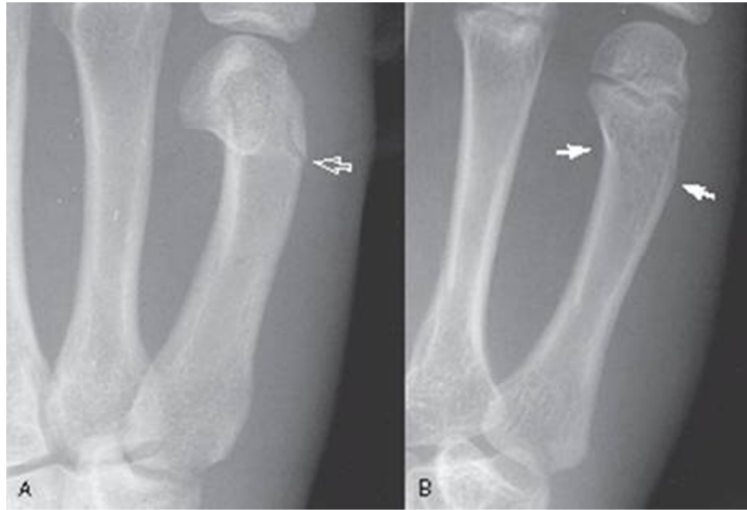


# Metacarpal Fractures



Fractures of the metacarpals are common and are not infrequently seen in the chiropractic practice. Although the mechanism of injury varies, the most common cause is secondary to punching an immovable object (often in a fit of anger). The majority of metacarpal fractures that we see are only minimally displaced. However, any angular deformity must be evaluated closely. If the angular change is less than 10 degrees, simple casting is all that is needed. If the angular change is 10-20 degrees, surgery may be needed. If the angular change is greater than 20 degrees then surgery is usually necessary. Fractures of the 2nd or 3rd metatarsals are called “Boxer’s fractures” and those of the 4th or 5th are called “Bar-room fractures”.