

# Rib Fractures



Trauma to the ribs is common and often results in fracture. Rib fractures are often difficult to see on X-ray and are one of the most common sites for occult fracture. The most critical aspect of detecting a rib fracture is to obtain an adequate number of views. The views should include an AP, a ten degree and thirty degree posterior oblique, and a ten and thirty degree anterior oblique. Even with 5 views, the fracture is often seen on just one view. If signs and symptoms suggest fracture but initial X-rays are negative, treat it like a fracture and repeat the films in 10-12 days. If a rib fracture is present, manual adjusting in the region is contraindicated until the bone is healed.