

Radiological assessment of the arthritic elbow joint

Radiological assessment of the arthritic elbow may be difficult due to fixed flexion deformity of the joint.

Suggested view therefore is:

AP view (for patients with no fixed elbow flexion)

- arm extended at elbow with forearm supinated

Or

Fixed flexion AP (for patients with fixed flexion deformity of the elbow)

2 views:

1. Distal humerus projection

- AP projection of the distal humerus placed against the image receptor
- allows visualisation of the distal humerus with the proximal forearm bony structures shortened

2. Proximal forearm projection

- AP projection of the proximal forearm / elbow with the forearm placed on the image receptor and supinated
- allows visualisation of the humeroulnar and radiocapitellar joint surfaces

Lateral view

- elbow flexed to 90 degrees and forearm mid-prone
- lateral projection centred on lateral epicondyle
- allows visualisation of anterior humeral line and radiocapitellar joint space