

C2 Vertebral Body Fracture Classification (Benzel)

The Benzel classification divides fractures of the C2 (axis) vertebral body into three types based on the fracture plane and the associated stability.

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<tab>☐ Type I – Coronal Plane Fracture</tab>

- Fracture line runs anterior to posterior.
- Generally **stable**.
- May include mild anterior compression.
- Common treatment: **rigid cervical collar** or **halo vest**.

<tab>☐ Type II – Sagittal Plane Fracture</tab>

- Parasagittal fracture, often separating a **superior articular facet**.
- Potentially **unstable**, especially if displaced or facet-involved.
- May require **anterior C2-C3 fusion** or posterior instrumentation.

[Benzel type 3 fracture.](#)

Classification Summary Table:

Type	Fracture Plane	Stability	Typical Treatment
☐ I	Coronal	Stable	Rigid collar / Halo vest
☐ II	Sagittal	Potentially unstable	Surgery depending on displacement
☐ III	Horizontal	Unstable	Surgery

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