

Odontoid fracture epidemiology

Fractures of the [odontoid process](#) (the [dens](#)) of the [axis](#) account for 10–20% of [acute cervical spine fractures](#)^{1) 2) 3) 4) 5) 6) 7) 8)}.

Significant force is required to produce an odontoid fracture in a young individual, and is usually sustained in a [motor vehicle accident](#) (MVA), a fall from a height, a skiing accident, etc. In patients > 70 years age, simple ground level falls (GLF) with head trauma may produce the fracture. Odontoid fractures comprise ≈10–15% of all [cervical spine fractures](#)⁹⁾

[Odontoid fractures](#) are the most common geriatric [cervical spine fractures](#).

Fractures of the odontoid process of [C2](#) have become increasingly prevalent in the aging [population](#) and are typically associated with a high [incidence](#) of [morbidity](#). They comprise the majority of all [cervical fractures](#) in patients older than 80 years and remain the most common [cervical fracture](#) pattern in all [geriatric patients](#)¹⁰⁾.

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