

Is this elbow radiograph normal?

It's a common question, and if there aren't obvious periarticular osteophytes it can be difficult to answer. There are however some subtle radiographic changes seen on a mediolateral radiograph that are a good indication of an underlying elbow problem -usually medial coronoid process (MCP) disease, aka fragmented coronoid process of (FCP). One of these is sclerosis of the subtrochlear area of the ulna; in short, if the darker grey intramedullary area of the ulna narrows as you follow it from distal to proximal, consider that area sclerotic and abnormal. Second, check for irregularity of the outline of the MCP. Check out these images which show both changes...

