JIVE FRACTURE OF THE FIRST RIB

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Stress fractures of the first rib may occur from "rock and roll" and jiving. The fracture is a vertical one at the junction of the posterior and middle thirds of either the right or left first rib, behind the attachment of the scalene muscles. It occurs in young adults, and follows the energetic movements associated with the so-called dancing popular at the moment with 'teenagers, called jiving.

The onset is acute, but may be delayed. The complaint is of pain in the region of the thoracic inlet on the affected side, with pain radiating down the back of the arm to the elbow: also pain in the left pectoral region. It is probably caused by the pull of the scalene muscles together with a severe rotation strain associated with the swirling movements of the arms, either right or left, carried out with great force in this type of dancing.

No treatment seems to be necessary except the wearing of a sling for six or eight weeks, with avoidance of jiving.

CASE REPORTS

Case 1—A youth of eighteen, a typographer, gave a history of an acute onset of pain in the left upper thoracic vertebrae after jive dancing. The pain radiated down the back of the left arm to the elbow: it was relieved by hot poultices.

On examination the posture of the patient was poor: there was tenderness in the region of the supraclavicular triangle, with limitation of movement of the left shoulder in all
directions. A radiograph showed a vertical fracture of the first rib at the junction of the posterior and middle thirds, without displacement (Fig. 1).

Case 2—A girl of eighteen complained of pain in the right shoulder region after jive dancing. On examination there was limitation of movement of the right shoulder joint in all directions. A radiograph showed a vertical stress fracture at the junction of the posterior and middle thirds of the right first rib (Fig. 2).