Common Upper Extremity Conditions Part 1: Compression Neuropathies

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Compression Neuropathies of the Upper Extremity

- Objectives
 - Discuss Pathology of compressive Neuropathies
 - Discuss the most common UE nerve compression syndromes
 - Carpal Tunnel Syndrome (CTS)
 - Cubital Tunnel Syndrome (CuTS)
 - Ulnar Tunnel Syndrome



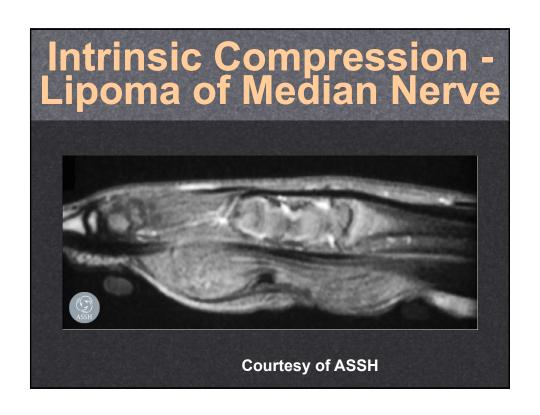
Compression Neuropathy Defined

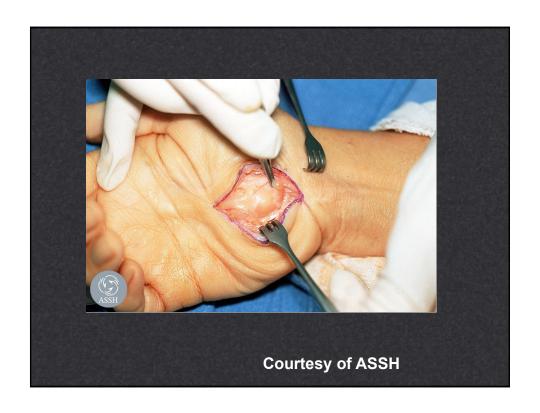
- Dysfunction of a peripheral nerve caused by pressure
- Symptoms manifested
 - Sensory
 - Motor
 - Autonomic



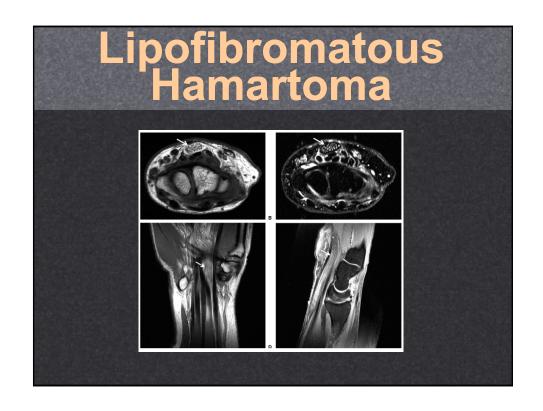
Background

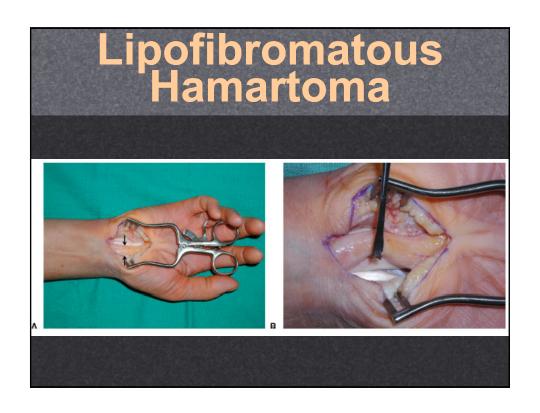
- Nerve compression occurs at many locations
 - Intrinsic Compression
 - Intraneural lipoma
 - Schwannoma/Neurofibroma
 - Hamartoma
 - Extrinsic Compression
 - Swelling
 - Fascia
 - Masses (ganglion, aberrant anatomy)
- Most Common: Carpal Tunnel
 - Ulnar, radial, other branches also possible



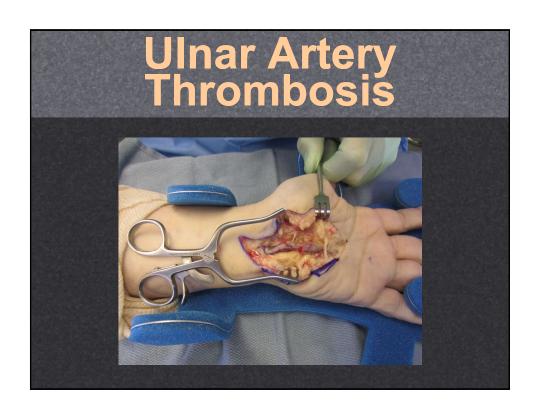


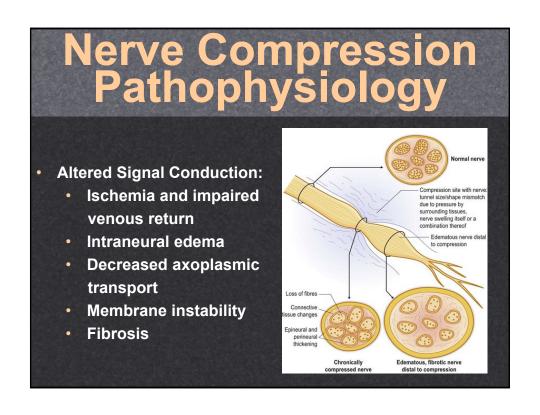












Risk Factors

- Genetics***
- Obesity
- Hypothyroidism
- Diabetes
- Pregnancy
- Renal disease
- Inflammatory arthritis
- Acromegaly
- Mucopolysaccharidosis

- Amyloidosis
- Multiple myeloma
- Gender (Women>Men)
- Age (> 50 y/o)
- Smoking
- Occupational exposure**

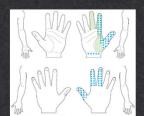


Pathophysiology: Multifactorial

- Systemic disease creates "at risk" environment
 - Diabetes, hypothyroidism, smoking
 - Microvascular disease
- Symptoms develop when pressure exceeds nerve threshold

General Principles of Diagnosis

- History & Physical
- Testing: No test is 100% specific and sensitive
 - EMG/NCS
 - Ultrasound
 - Hand diagrams
 - Static 2-point discrimination
 - Semmes-Weinstein
 - Provocative maneuvers
 - Physical findings (atrophy, clawing, etc.)



General Principles: EMG/NCS

- Not always positive in early stages
- · False negative results may occur
- Operator dependent
- Allows localization of lesion
- Can follow progression
- Values may never normalize after decompression



Imaging

- Generally of Limited Use
- · Ultrasound: becoming more popular
- Plain Radiographs: 2 views (orthogonal) to rule out:
 - Post-traumatic deformity
 - Arthritic changes
- CT or MRI
 - Rarely indicated
 - Rule out suspected soft tissue mass
 - Rule out occult fractures

Ultrasound

- Median Nerve enlargement > 10 mm at CTS inlet
- Sensitivity as high as 97.9%
- · Can also be used to guide injection



Carpal Tunnel Syndrome

- Most common compressive neuropathy
- Affects .1-10% of the general population
- 200,000+ surgeries performed annually



Anatomy of the Carpal Tunnel

- Contents:
 - Median nerve
 - FDP (flexor digitorum profundus) X 4
 - FDS (flexor digitorum superficialis) X 4
 - FPL (flexor pollicis longus)



Courtesy of ASSH

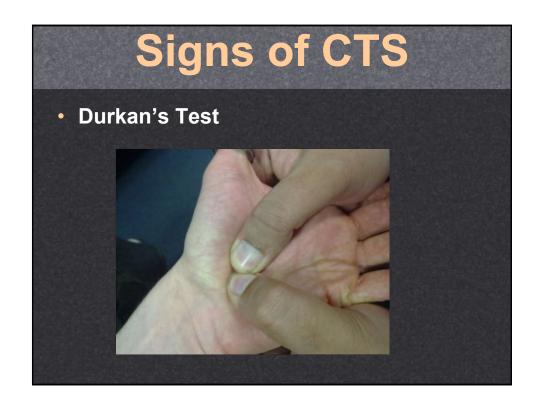
Symptoms of CTS

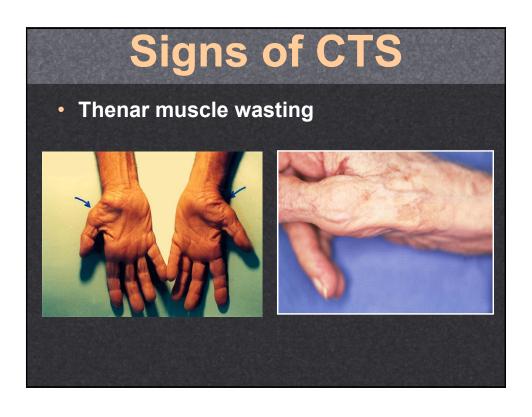
- · Numbness, paresthesia in median distribution
 - Worse with work or at night
 - · Relieved by shaking hand, dependent positioning
 - May include ulnar digits
 - May radiate up forearm or even to shoulder
- Swelling of hand
- · Weakness, clumsiness, dropping objects

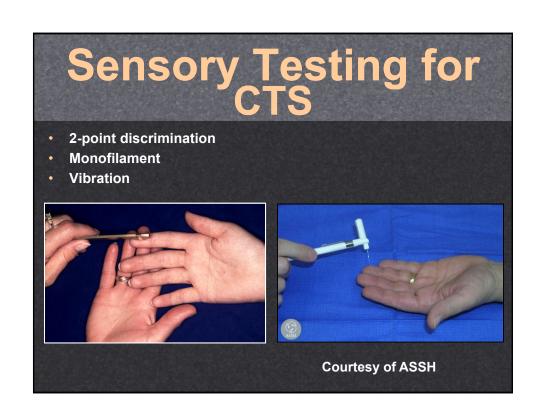


Signs of CTS • Tinel's test Courtesy of ASSH





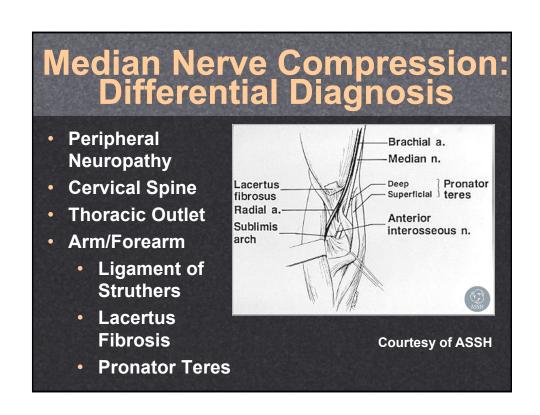




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Sensitivity	Specificity	
10-88%	47-100%	
26-79%	40-100%	
87%	90%	
Up to 91%	Up to 80%	Palumbo + Szabo, Hand Clin, 18:269-77, 2002
	Sensitivity 10-88% 26-79% 87%	10-88% 47-100% 26-79% 40-100% 87% 90%

Diagnostic Testing Nerve conduction study/EMG Motor latency 4.5 ms or 1 ms > opposite hand Sensory latency 3.5 ms or 1 ms > opposite hand Ultrasound

NU	CS vs Ultra	asound
	Pros	Cons
NCS/EMG	R/O other pathology Can compare serial exams (pre and post surgery) Indicates severity	Painful False negative
Ultrasound	Can be done at same visit in office Can use to guide injections	Does not evaluate other causes Operator dependent

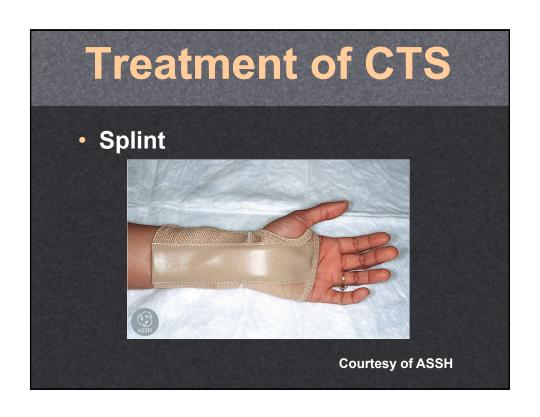


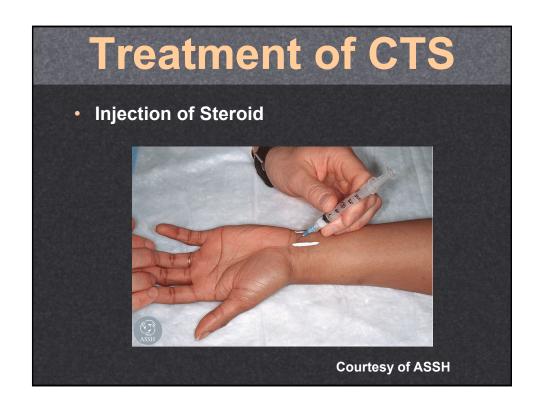
CTS 6 Diagnostic Criteria

- 1) Numbness in the Median nerve distribution
- 2) Nocturnal numbness
- 3) Weakness/Atrophy of the Thenar musculature
- 4) Tinel's sign
- 5) Phalen's test
- 6) Loss of 2-point discrimination

Carpal Tunnel Grading

- Mild
 - Duration < 1 year
 - Intermittent numbness
 - Normal sensory testing
 - No weakness or atrophy
 - Minimal NCV changes, no denervation
- Moderate
 - Continuous numbness, paresthesias
 - Increased threshold on sensory tests
 - Increased distal motor latency
- Severe
 - Persistent loss sensory+ motor function
 - Thenar atrophy

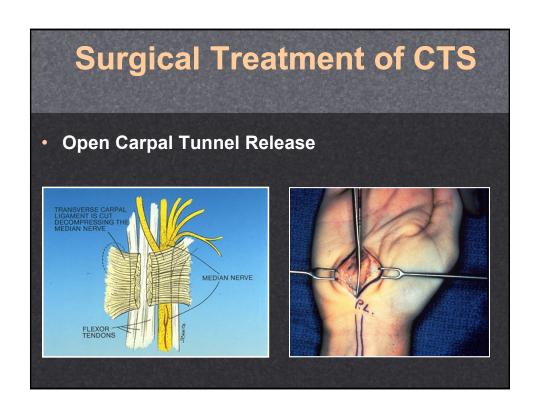


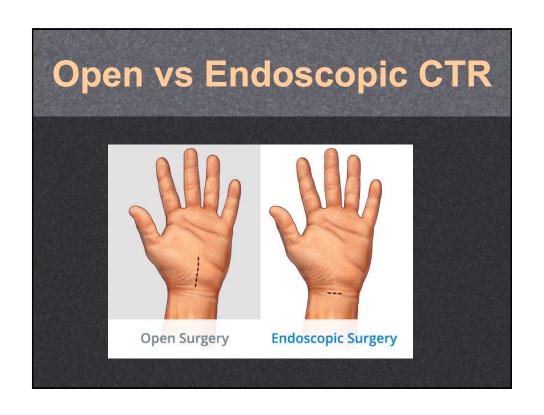


CTS – Predictors of Outcome with Conservative Treatment

 Factors – Age>50 yrs, Duration sxs> 10 mo, Constant paresthesias, Stenosing tenosynovitis, Phalen's + in <30 s (Kaplan et al, JHS 15B, 1990)

Factors Present	% Success
0	66
1	40
2	17
3	7
4	0
5	0







Open vs Endoscopic CTR

- 2-3 week earlier return to work with endoscopic versus open CTR
- No substantial difference in final outcome
- No difference in Complication Rates
 - Brown et al, JBJS (Am) 1993.
 - Trumble et al, JBJS (Am) 2002.

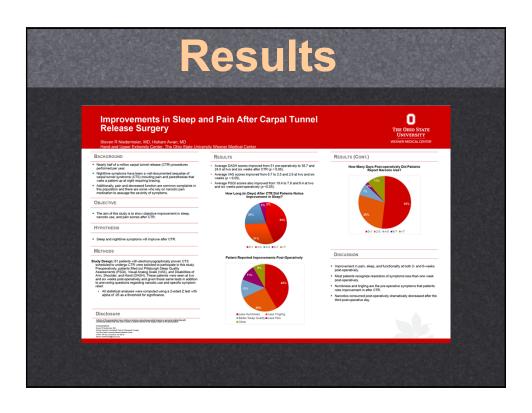
What Are Hand Surgeons Doing?

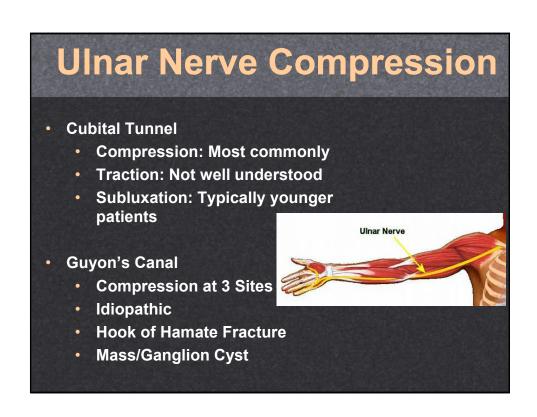
SCIENTIFIC ARTICLE

Trends in Carpal Tunnel Surgery: An Online Survey of Members of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand

Justin J. Munns, MD, Hisham M. Awan, MD

- 70% of hand surgeons who responded use Open or Mini Open CTR
- 26% perform endoscopic release
- Most under local with sedation, but 11% use general anesthesia
 - Only 8% use local only

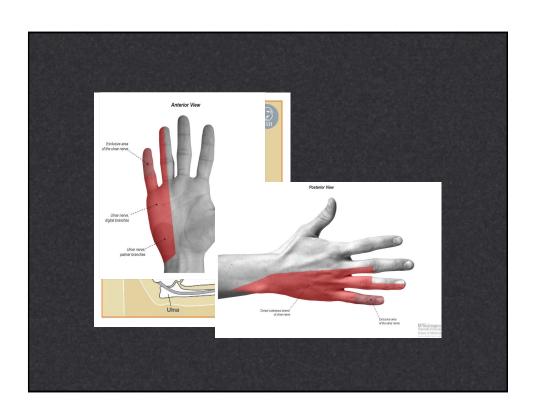




Cubital Tunnel Syndrome

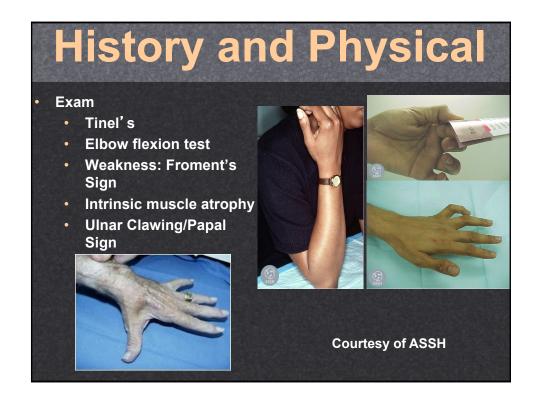
- Clinical syndrome of numbness, pain, and weakness associated with compression of the ulnar nerve at the elbow.
- C8-T1
- Terminal continuation of the medial cord of the brachial plexus





History and Physical: Cubital Tunnel

- Symptoms
 - Numbness/tingling
 - Night pain
 - Elbow flexion
 - Snapping at elbow
 - Pain at Medial Elbow
 - Weakness with grip/pinch
 - Late Symptoms/Signs:
 - Persistent Numbness
 - Progressive weakness
 - Intrinsic Wasting
 - Clawing



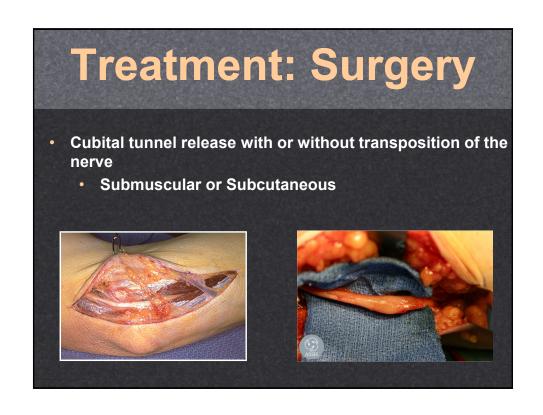
Electrodiagnostic Studies

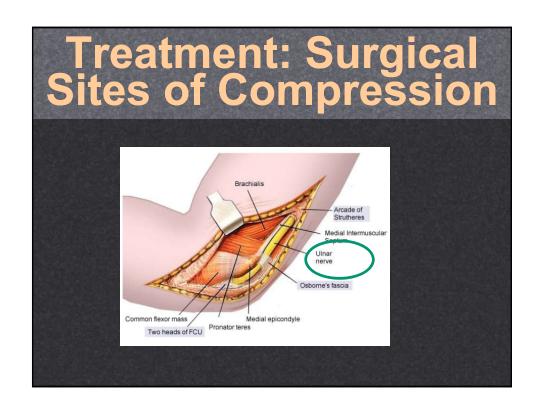
- Inching technique to localize site of compression
- · Confirm diagnosis
- · Evaluate degree of denervation
- Evaluate degree of conduction delay
- Rule out proximal involvement
 - Pancoast tumor, cervical radiculopathy, brachial plexopathy, thoracic outlet

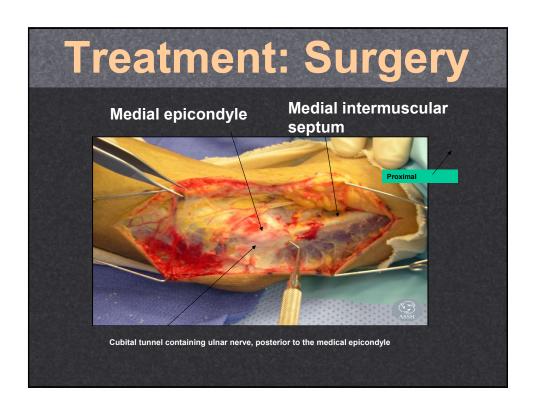
Treatment: Conservative

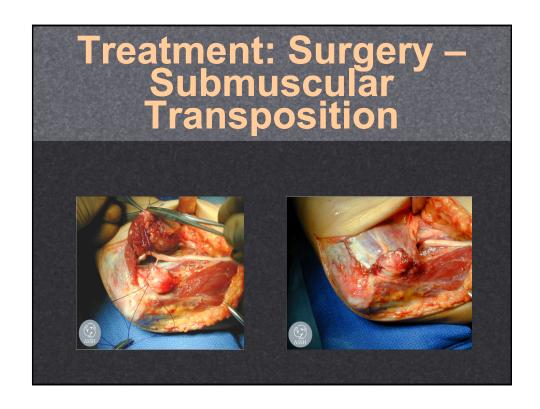
- Nighttime pillow/extension splinting
- Elbow pad/Avoidance direct trauma, compression
- Activity Modifications



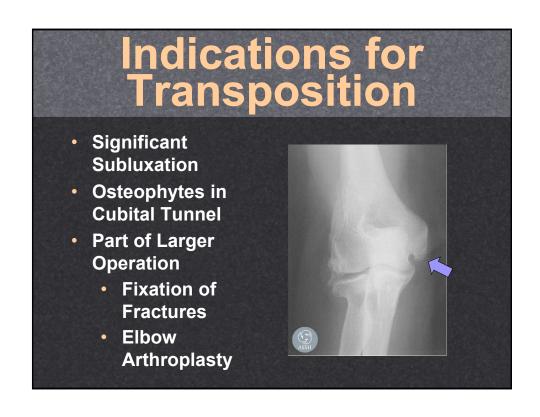


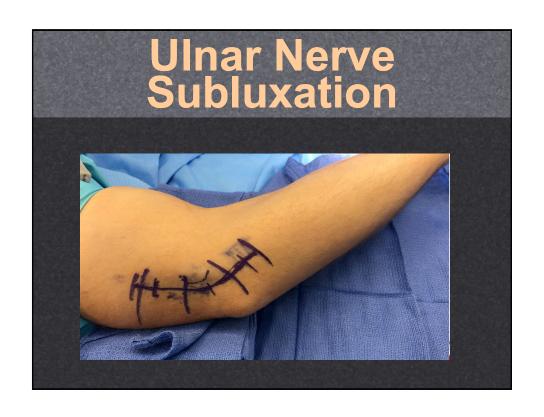


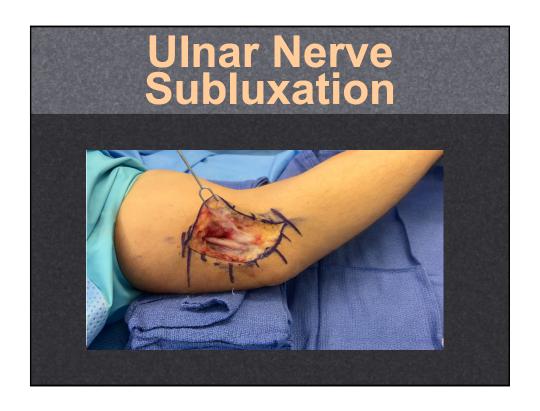




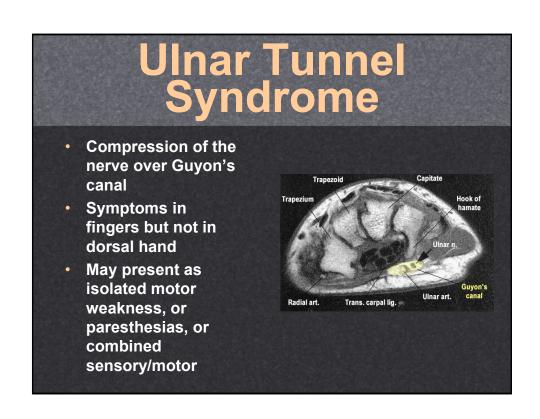




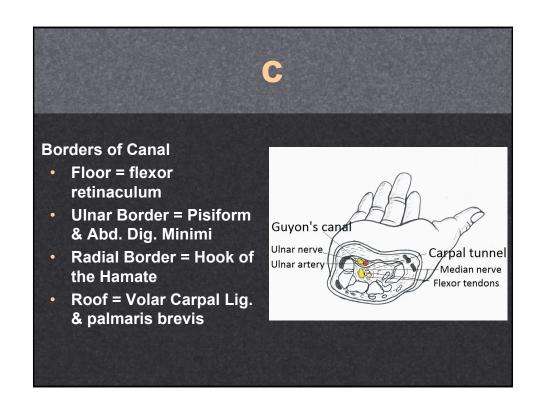








Ulnar Tunnel Syndrome Ganglion cysts- most common Ulnar Artery Aneurysm or thrombus Hamate Hook Fracture Lipoma Repetitive trauma (bicyclists) Courtesy of ASSH



Guyon's Canal Zones

- Zone 1 = proximal to bifurcation
 - Ganglions (most common), anomalous muscle
 - Fractures of hook of hamate
- Zone 2 = deep motor branch only
 - Hook of hamate fracture, ganglion
- Zone 3 = superficial sensory branch only
 - Ulnar artery thrombosis
 - Synovial inflammation



Nonsurgical Treatment of Ulnar Tunnel Syndrome

- Diagnostic Imaging to evaluate vascular lesion-MRA, Doppler, Angiogram, etc.
- MRI/CT scan to r/o masses, fractures
- Activity modification- avoid pressure
- Wrist splints, NSAID's
- Padded gel gloves



Surgical Decompression of Guyon's Canal

- Indirect decompression done by CTR alone
- Dissection from proximal to distal to protect branching pattern
- Evaluate deep motor branch of ulnar nerve
- Protect palmar cutaneous branch of ulnar nerve
- · Removal of mass, pressure

Ulnar Tunnel Syndrome: Guyon's Canal Right Palm/ Guyon's Canal Courtesy of ASSH



Return to work and return to activities after surgery for compression neuropathy

Long-term prognosis after surgery

Non-osseus Conditions of the Upper Extremity: Tendinopathies

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Agenda

- Stenosing Tenosynovitis
- De Quervain's Tenosynovitis
- Intersection Syndrome
- EDC tendonitis
- Snapping ECU
- Lateral Epicondylitis
- Medial Epicondylitis

Stenosing Tenosynovitis

- "Trigger Finger"
- **Definition:**
 - Catching or locking of the finger secondary to A1 pulley thickening



Image from American Society for Surgery of the Hand

Stenosing Tenosynovitis

Size mismatch between flexor tendon & A1 pulley

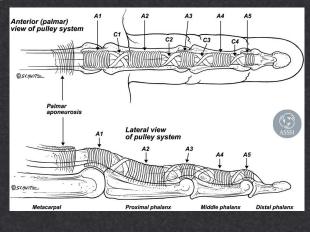


Image from American Society for Surgery of the Hand

Stenosing Tenosynovitis

- Thickened stenotic A1 pulley
- Nodular enlargement of flexor tendons
- Grades:
 - 1. pain only
 - 2. catches but can be actively unlocked
 - 3. catches but must be passively unlocked
 - 4. locked with a PIP joint flexion contracture

Stenosing Tenosynovitis

- Exam: tender volarly over A1 pulley and triggering noted
- Causes:
 - Most commonly idiopathic
 - · Can be associated with:
 - Diabetes
 - Hypothyroidism
 - Rheumatoid arthritis
 - Recent hand surgery
 - Trauma
 - Female predilection

Stenosing Tenosynovitis

- DDx:
 - Snapping of MCPJ collaterals on osteophyte
 - Sagittal band rupture / snapping extensor tendon
 - Swan neck deformity
 - Slip of FDS catching under the pulley

Stenosing Tenosynovitis

- Treatment options
 - Activity modification
 - Trigger finger splint at night
 - Steroid injections
 - Surgical Release of A1 pulley





Images from American Society for Surgery of the Hand

Stenosing Tenosynovitis

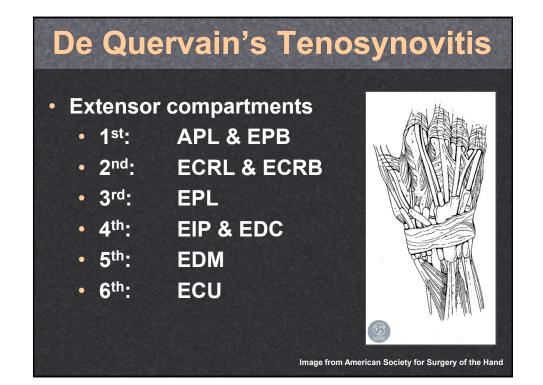
- Steroid injections
 - 50-70% effective
 - Reportedly equally effective in diabetics
 - Does not need to be within flexor sheath
 - Can alter blood glucose for up to a week
 - May offer a 2nd injection before surgery

Stenosing Tenosynovitis Surgical release • Longitudinal vs oblique vs transverse incision • Protect NV bundle • Thumb radial digital nerve

- Completely release A1 pulley
- · Actively flex digit if wide awake
- Release palmar pulley, vent A2 if necessary.
- Release ulnar FDS slip if needed

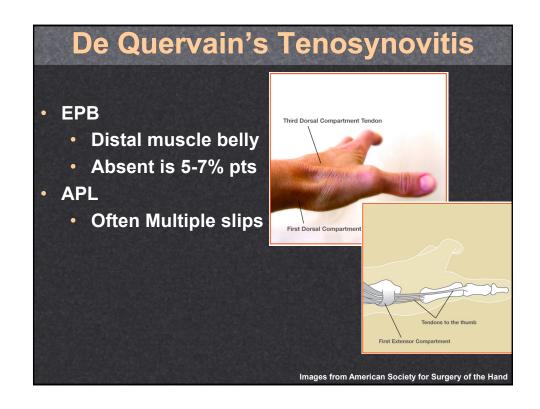


Images from American Society for Surgery of the Hand



De Quervain's Tenosynovitis

- Definition:
 - Stenosing tenosynovitis of the first dorsal extensor compartment (APL & EPB)
- Extensor sheath becomes relatively stenotic or narrowed leading to pain





- Demographics:
 - Overuse of thumb
 - New mothers/parents
 - Elderly
 - 6:1 womer



www.publicdomainpictures.net

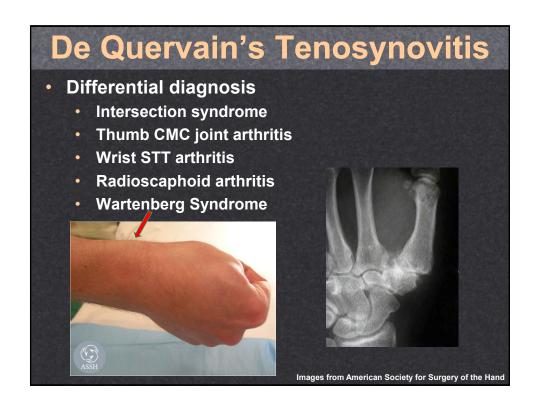


- **Diagnosis**
 - Pain at or just proximal to the radial styloid
 - Worsens with ulnar deviation of the wrist
 - Finkelstein test





Images from American Society for Surgery of the Hand





De Quervain's Tenosynovitis

- Injections:
 - 60% success rate
 - I personally offer 2 injections at most
 - May elevate blood glucose for a week
 - Subcutaneous injection is effective



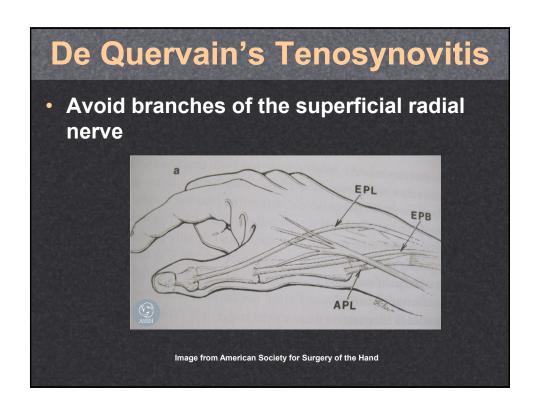
Image from American Society for Surgery of the Hand

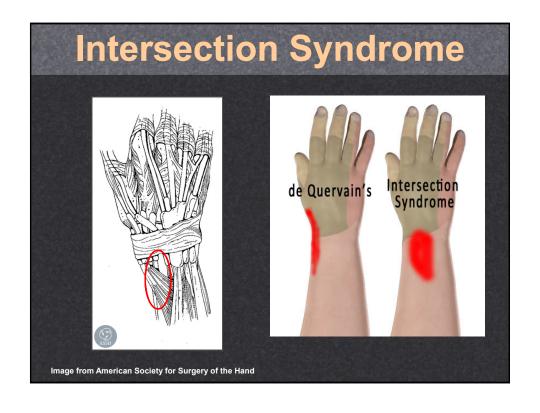
De Quervain's Tenosynovitis

- · Surgical release of first dorsal compartment
 - Indicated if patient dissatisfied with non-operative measures.
 - Division of the fibro-osseous sheath over the first dorsal compartment (dorsal edge)
 - Care must be taken to identify all slips of both APL and EPB tendons



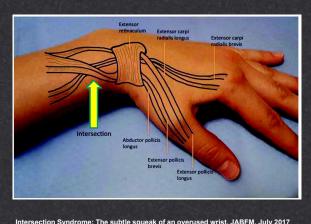
Image from American Society for Surgery of the Hand





Intersection Syndrome

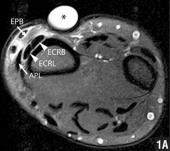
 Pain and swelling due to entrapment of and compression of 2nd compartment where the 1st dorsal compartment intersects it. Approximately 5cm proximal to wrist joint



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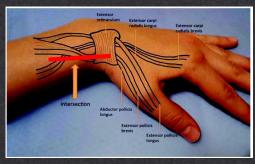
Intersection Syndrome

- History:
 - Common in rowers and weight lifters (repetitive wrist extension)
- Exam:
 - TTP over site of intersection
 - Crepitance at intersection site with resisted wrist and thumb extension
- Imaging:
 - MRI
 - Peritendinous edema
 - Fluid surrounding the 1st/2nd extensor compartments





- Treatment:
 - Immobilization
 - Steroid injection
 - Surgical release
 - Longitudinal incision to release 1st and 2nd dorsal compartment and proximal fascia
 - Retinaculum is left open



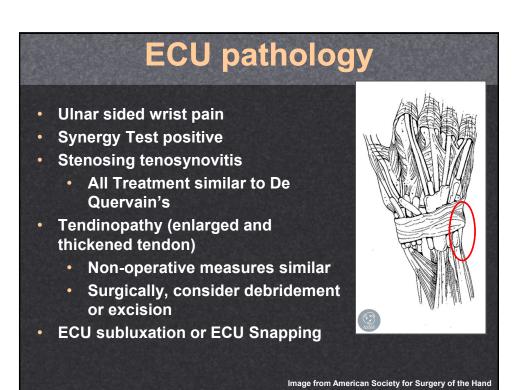
Intersection Syndrome: The subtle squeak of an overused wrist. JABFM, July 2017

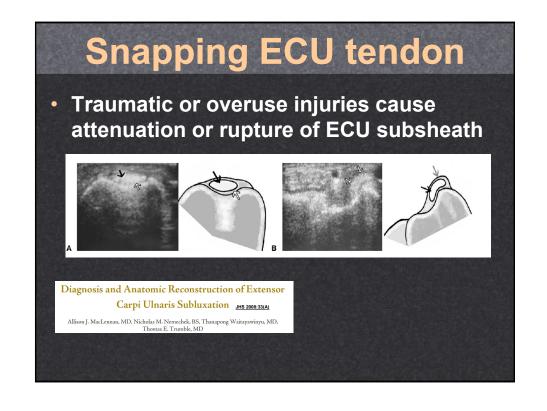
EDC Tendonitis

- Rare
- Drummer's wrist
- Repetitive wrist extension
- Inject, brace, stop drumming



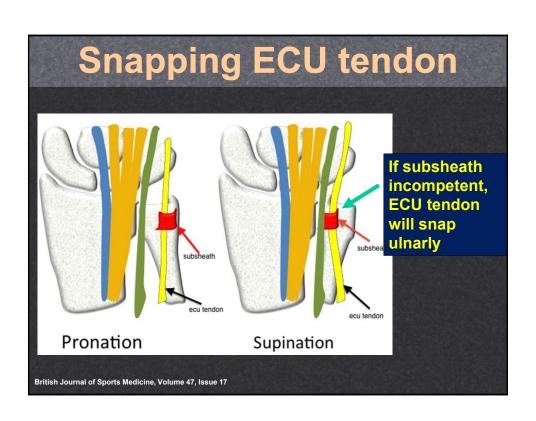
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Snapping ECU tendon

- History:
 - Atraumatic/Asymptomatic
 - · Injury sometimes recalled
 - · Pain/snapping over dorsoulnar wrist
- Exam:
 - Extension/supination of the wrist elicits a painful snap
 - ECU tendon reduces with pronation
- Imaging:
 - MRI demonstrates peritendinous edema



Snapping ECU tendon

- Differential Diagnosis of Ulnar Sided Wrist Pain:
 - Other ECU pathology
 - TFCC tears
 - DRUJ synovitis/instability
 - Pisotriquetral arthritis/cysts
 - Lunotriquetral tears

Snapping ECU tendon

- Non-Operative Treatment:
 - Wrist splint for tendonitis
 - Long arm cast in pronation
- Operative:
 - ECU subsheath repair (acute) vs reconstruction (chronic)
 - +/- wrist arthroscopy (concurrent TFCC tear in 50% of cases)
 - Change ECU vector by inserting onto ring finger MC base

Diagnosis and Anatomic Reconstruction of Extensor
Carpi Ulnaris Subluxation (JHS 2008-33/A)

Allison J. MacLennan, MD, Nicholas M. Nemechek, BS, Thanapong Waitayawinyu, MD, Thomas E. Trumble, MD

Lateral Epicondylitis

- "Tennis elbow"
 - anyone and everyone
- Repetitive eccentric overload of common extensor tendon
 - Primarily tendinopathy of ECRB
 - May also involve microtears of ECRL, ECU, and EDC
- Most common cause of elbow pain



wikipedia

Lateral Epicondylitis

- Physical exam
 - Point tenderness at ECRB origin (just distal to lateral epicondyle)
 - Decreased grip strength
 - Provocative tests:
 - Resisted wrist extension with elbow fully extended
 - Resisted extension of the middle finger





Lateral Epicondylitis

- Imaging
 - Plain films usually normal
 - Calcification of extensor origin may be present but doesn't usually change management
- MRI
 - For uncertain diagnoses
 - Increased signal at ECRB origin (~50%); thickening
 - Evaluate LUCL



Lateral Epicondylitis

- DDx:
 - Radial tunnel syndrome (5% concomitant Dx)
 - 3-4 cm distal/anterior to lateral epicondyle
 - LUCL injury / Posterolateral Rotatory Instability (PLRI)
 - Capitellar OCD
 - · Radiocapitellar arthritis
 - Radial head fracture
 - Triceps tendinitis
 - Cervical radiculopathy

Lateral Epicondylitis

- Non-operative treatment (95% success)
 - Activity modification (rest), ice, NSAIDs
 - Home Stretching Program
 - Counter-force brace
 - Wrist brace
 - Steroid injections
 - Physical therapy (iontophoresis/phonophoresis)

Home exercise program







Lateral Epicondylitis

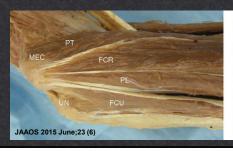
- Operative treatment
 - Indicated if failed non-op for 6-12mo
 - Open ECRB debridement
 - Stay anterior to LUCL origin
 - Deep/posterior to ECRL
 - Excise degenerative ECRB tendon
 - Decorticate epicondyle
 - Side-to-side tendon repair



Arthroscopic ECRB release TENEX

Medial Epicondylitis

- "Golfer's elbow"
 - Pitchers, bowlers, racquet sports
- Tendinosis of flexor/pronator origin
 - Secondary stabilizers to valgus stress
 - PT, FCR, PL, FDS, FCU
 - Traditionally Pronator Teres > FCR
- Less common and harder to treat vs lateral epicondylitis





Medial Epicondylitis

- Physical Exam
 - TTP 5-10mm distal/anterior to medial epicondyle
 - Pain with resisted pronation & wrist flexion
 - Always check for valgus instability and ulnar



Medial Epicondylitis Treatment Non-operative similar to Lateral Epicondylitis Operative: Indicated after 6mo failed non-op Debridement of PT/FCR, reattachment of flexorpronator group Good to excellent outcomes in 80% - Not as good as surgery for lateral epicondylitis **JAAOS 2015;23** Worse outcomes with pre-op ulnar nerve symptoms