

VOLAR WRIST LIPOMA IN GUYON'S CANAL CAUSING ULNAR NERVE NEUROPATHY

Yolanda Boniface Deyoi¹, Mohd Hanifah Jusoh¹, Mohammad Paiman¹, Abdul Nawfar Sadagatullah¹

¹Universiti Sains Malaysia

Introduction: Ulnar nerve compression may occur at the elbow or the wrist, but more commonly at the cubital tunnel over the elbow. Ulnar nerve compression at the Guyon's canal caused by compression will lead to symptoms of pain and paresthesia over ulnar one and a half of the digits and clawing of the ring and little finger. However chronic compression may cause irreversible nerve injury if not treated earlier.

Discussion: A 59 year old gentleman, right hand dominant presented with progressive swelling associated with weakness and numbness over his left hand over a year. There was no prior history of trauma or infection over affected area. Examination revealed soft tissue swelling over the left hypothenar with clawing over his ring and little fingers and muscle wasting of intrinsic muscles. Sensation over ulnar nerve distribution was reduced with positive Froment's sign with good circulation over all fingers. Plain radiographs showed increased soft tissue shadow with no bony involvement or calcification seen. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of left hand showed soft tissue lesion within hypothenar muscle with associated subcutaneous tissue thickening of the surrounding muscle. A multilobulated mass was excised, originating from distal end of left wrist which was compressing on the ulnar nerve. There was good pulsation over the ulnar artery post removal. Histopathology results revealed intramuscular lipoma. Post operatively, there was improvement in his sensory and motor function.

Conclusion: Ulnar nerve compression in the Guyon's canal is rare with very few cases reported in the literature. Common causes of compression in the Guyon's canal are ganglion cyst, trauma or aneurysm of the ulnar artery. Patients presenting with compressive symptoms require surgical excision to relieve compression on the ulnar nerve and thus prevent irreversible nerve injury.