

— Abstract —

Anterior Subcutaneous Ulnar Nerve Transposition for Cubital Tunnel Syndrome

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Purpose: To evaluate the clinical results of anterior subcutaneous ulnar nerve transposition operation and the factors that influence the results for cubital tunnel syndrome.

Materials and Methods: Seventeen cases of cubital tunnel syndrome were treated by anterior subcutaneous transposition between March 2001 and December 2003. The mean age was 56 years and mean follow up period was 20.4 months. All patients were reviewed retrospectively. The preoperative evaluation was done by Dellon's classification and the clinical results were evaluated by Messina's classification. We analyzed the effect of the operation and the relations between the results and the preoperative factors, for example, duration of symptom, age, cause of illness, present of association with diabetes mellitus or preoperative flexion contracture of the elbow were analyzed.

Results: The results according to Messina's classification were 4 cases of excellent, 9 cases of good, 3 cases of fair, and 1 case of poor. The preoperative factors like duration of symptom, age, cause of illness and flexion contracture of the elbow didn't show any statistical difference in the result of operation, but the cases which have diabetes mellitus were unsatisfactory with statistical difference ($p=0.018$).

Conclusion: Anterior subcutaneous ulnar nerve transposition is relatively easy and good operative method in cubital tunnel syndrome.

Key Words: Cubital tunnel syndrome, Ulnar nerve, Anterior subcutaneous transposition

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9,17,18,22)

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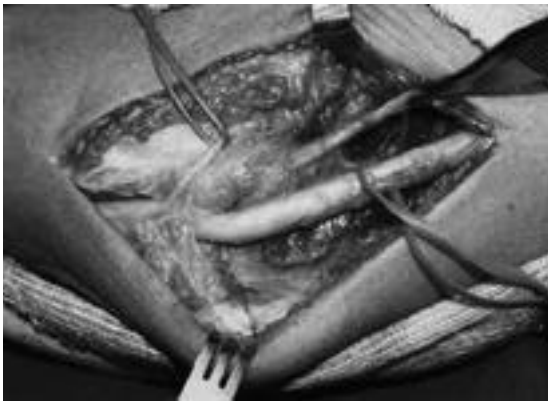


Fig. 1. The ulnar nerve in its original position, posterior to the medial epicondyle.

2001 3 2003 12
 17 16 1
 56(39~69) 15.7(1~48)
 20(10~36)
 10
 1 6
 5 3
 10 17 14
 10
 8 6 mm
 (Table 1).

(Fig. 1) Arcade of Struthers
 (Cubital tunnel retinaculum)



Fig. 2. The sling was made of medial intermuscular septum and the ulnar nerve was transferred anteriorly on flexor-pronator muscle group.



Fig. 3. The transferred ulnar nerve was stabilized by the sling.

(Medial intermuscular septum) (47%) .
 Arcade of Struthers (Nerve conduction velocity and electromyography, NCV-EMG) (Table 3).
 (Fig. 2).

(Fig. 3).
 가 Dellon (Table 2) 1 Messina (Table 4)
 가 9 (53%), 가 8 Dellon 8
 4 , 9 , 3 ,
 2 , 4 , 2

Table 1. Clinical evaluation of patients

Clinical finding	Preoperative	Postoperative
	No. of Pt	No. of Pt
Pain	17	4
Hypoesthesia	10	3
Paresthesia	14	4
Tinnel's sign	12	4
M.atrophy adductor	2	2
interosseous	5	4
hypothenar	7	5
Clawing	3	2
abnormal* two-point discrimination	8	3

*Two-point discrimination of more than 6 mm is considered abnormal.

Table 2. Staging of ulnar nerve compression at the elbow (Dallon)

Mild	
Sensory:	Paresthesias come and go Vibratory perception increased
Motor:	Subjective weakness, clumsiness or loss of coordination
Tests:	Elbow flexion test and/or Tinel's sign may be positive
Moderate	
Sensory:	Paresthesias come and go Vibratory perception normal or decreased
Motor:	Measurable weakness in pinch and/or grip strength
Tests:	Elbow flexion test and/or Tinel's sign are positive Finger crossing may be abnormal
Severe	
Sensory:	Paresthesias are persistent Vibratory peerception decreased Abnormal two-point discrimination (Static 6 mm, moving 4 mm)
Motor:	Measurable weakness in pinch and grip plus muscle atrophy
Test:	Positive elbow flexion test and/or positive Tinel's sign may be present Finger crossing usually abnormal

9, 2, 5, 2, 7, 2, 1, 1 (Table 5). Fibrillation potential 3, 8, 12, 1, 9, 2, 2 Sensory nerve action potential (SAP) 7, 1, 10, 3, 5, 1, 4, 2, 1, 7, 1, 8, 2, 4, 13 가, 4, 1, 1, 7, 4, 10 가, 1, 9, 4, 1, 7, 2, 5, 2, 3, 5, 6 mm, 10, 3, 6, (Table 1). NCV-EMG NCV가 45 m/s 12, 4, 2, 1, 5, 6, 3, 2, 1, 60, 2, 5, 60, 2, 4, 3, 1, 5, 2, 2, 1 (Table 6). 가 (p=0.018).

Table 3. Summary of the preoperative electromyographic (EMG) findings

EMG finding	number of pt.
NCV* < 45 m/s	12
Polyphasic MUP**	4
Absence of SAP***	7
Fibrillation potential	13

* NCV: nerve conduction velocity

** MUP: motor unit potential

*** SAP: Sensory nerve action potential

Table 4. Messina Classification after operation

Good	general resolution of symptom but occasional tenderness at the incision site mild residual decreased sensibility, residual motor weakness
Fair	Improved after surgery but with persistent sensory changes, residual motor loss, muscle wasting, persistent claw deformity
Poor	No improvement after the surgical procedure or worse

Table 5. Summary of the postoperative results

	moderate	severe	total
Excellent	2 (22.2%)	2 (25%)	4 (23.5%)
Good	5 (55.6%)	4 (50%)	9 (52.9%)
Fair	1 (11.1%)	2 (25%)	3 (17.6%)
Poor	1 (11.1%)	0	1 (5.9%)
Total (%)	9 (100%)	8 (100%)	17 (100%)

24)

가 16)

가 4,5)가

Dellon⁴⁾ 가 4) Messina Messina⁹⁾

Arcade of Struthers 23) 60%

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EMG NCV- 4,7,13,14,17) 가

21), 26), 12), 22), 10,25)

4,11,12,15,16,21,22) 가 8,13,20,24)

Table 6. Summary of the postoperative results according to preoperative factors

	excellant	good	fair	poor
Symptom duration				
>1year	2	4	1	1
<1year	2	5	2	0
osteoarthritis	3	4	2	1
idiopathic	1	5	0	0
cubitus valgus	0	0	1	0
Flexion contracture	2	1	0	0
DM	0	2	2	1
M. atrophy	3	4	2	1
Tinnel's sign	1	9	2	0
NCV-EMG				
NCV (<45 m/s)	2	7	2	1
fibrillation potential	3	8	2	0
absence of SAP	1	5	1	0

Macnicol¹⁷⁾

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9) 가 가 가

, Matsuzaki

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