NORTHWEST COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS

MLS: 55233
DD: Wed Mar 10 12:03:00 2004 CST
DT: Wed Mar 10 18:23:44 2004 EST
JN: 27810

DSC OPERATIVE REPORT

DATE OF OPERATION: 03/10/2004

PREOPERATIVE DIAGNOSIS: Recurrent left ulnar neuritis at the cubital tunnel with ulnar nerve subluxation.

POSTOPERATIVE DIAGNOSIS: Recurrent left ulnar neuritis at the cubital tunnel with ulnar nerve subluxation.

PROCEDURE: Revision of left ulnar neurolysis at the cubital tunnel with anterior transposition.

SURGEON: Scott D. Sagerman, MD

ASSISTANT: John R. Ruder, MD

ANESTHESIA: General.

COMPLICATIONS: None.

TOURNIQUET TIME: 1 hour and 10 minutes.

OPERATIVE FINDINGS: The patient developed symptomatic ulnar nerve subluxation at the cubital tunnel with recurrent ulnar neuritis following previous cubital tunnel release surgery. Exploration revealed marked iristability of the ulnar nerve which easily subluxated anterior to the medial epicondyle with elbow flexion. Scar formation was present surrounding the ulnar nerve within the cubital tunnel.

TECHNIQUE: Consent was signed by the patient, and he was taken to the operating room. General anesthesia was given. The left arm was prepped and draped sterilely. A sterile tourniquet was applied to the upper arm and inflated following exsanguination of the limb.

The previous longitudinal scar over the cubital tunnel was incised at the posteromedial aspect of the elbow, and the incision was extended proximally and distally in longitudinal fashion for additional exposure. Under loupe magnification, the subcutaneous tissue was dissected. The branches of the medial antebrachial cutaneous nerve were identified, dissected, and retracted safely. The skin flaps were elevated, and the ulnar nerve was exposed.

Neurolysis was performed to mobilize the ulnar nerve from surrounding scar tissue. The release was carried proximally and to the upper arm. The medial intermuscular septum was excised. The arcade of Struthers were absent. The release was then carried distally into the flexor/pronator musculature. The aponeurosis was divided to mobilize the ulnar nerve. The articular branch had to be divided to allow adequate mobility of the ulnar nerve for anterior transposition. Small horizontal vessels were ligated and divided, preserving the longitudinal blood supply to the ulnar nerve.

The ulnar nerve was then transposed to the medial epicondyle, assuring a straight line course of the nerve. There was no kinking of the nerve either proximally or distally. The transposition was then stabilized using submuscular flap. The flexor/pronator muscle fascia was incised to create a Z-plasty, permitting lengthening of the muscle fascia. The muscle fibers were then divided, with ligation of perforating vessels. The ulnar nerve was placed in the submuscular position, maintaining a thin layer of muscle fibers deep to the nerve. The fascia was then reapproximated in a lengthened position using 3-0 Vicryl sutures, maintaining the ulnar nerve in the transposed position without excessive tension on the nerve. The elbow was taken through a range of motion, and the nerve showed excellent gliding with no visible angulation of the nerve.

The field was irrigated with antibiotic solution. One free end of a cutaneous nerve branch was identified. This was placed deep to the medial arm fascia which was sutured with Vicryl, to prevent symptomatic neuroma formation.

The subcutaneous tissue was reapproximated with buried 5-0 Vicryl sutures, and the skin edges were reapproximated with 5-0 nylon sutures. A sterile bulky gauze dressing was applied followed by posterior plaster splint to maintain the elbow in a flexed position. The patient was awoken, extubated, and transported to the recovery room in stable condition. He tolerated the procedure well. There were no complications.

Scott D. Sagerman, MD

OPERATIVE REPORT

Preoperative Diagnosis:
Left cubital tunnel syndrome.

Postoperative Diagnosis:
Same.

Operation Performed:
Left cubital tunnel release.

Surgeon: Scott Sagerman, M.D.
Anesthesia: General.
Complications: None.
Tourniquet Time: 38 minutes.

OPERATIVE FINDINGS: The left ulnar nerve showed obvious constriction at the distal aspect of the cubital tunnel beneath the cubital tunnel ligaments. The ligament was thickened with several bands of deep layers over the area of nerve compression. The floor of the cubital tunnel was clear. The ulnar nerve did subluxate slightly over the medial epicondyle at end range of flexion. There was no arcade of Struthers.

PROCEDURE: Consent was signed by the patient, taken to the operating room, general anesthesia was administered. The left arm was prepped and draped sterilely. A tourniquet was inflated on the upper arm following exsanguination of the limb. A longitudinal incision was made over the cubital tunnel at the posteromedial aspect of the left elbow. Under loupe magnification the subcutaneous tissues dissected, superficial veins were ligated with bipolar cautery. Branches of the medial interbrachial cutaneous nerve were identified. These were dissected and gently retracted safely using a vessel loop. The fascia was incised proximal to the cubital tunnel to expose the ulnar nerve. The nerve was dissected distally by dividing the cubital tunnel ligament, until the nerve entered the flexor/pronator fascia of the proximal forearm. The fascia was incised distally and motor branches of the ulnar nerve were seen with normal perineural fat at this level. Proximally, the nerve was dissected by dividing the arm fascia for a distance of 10 cm proximal to the epicondyle.

The ulnar nerve was inspected, adhesions around the nerve were divided with gentle blunt dissection. The nerve was noted to be constricted at the distal aspect of the cubital tunnel. Following neurolysis, tendon gliding was found to be satisfactory with elbow motion. No other areas of nerve compression were seen.

The field was irrigated with antibiotic solution. The vessel loop was removed. The subcutaneous tissues were reapproximated with 5-0 Vicryl undyed buried sutures. The skin edges were reapproximated with 5-0 and 6-0 nylon sutures. A sterile bulky compressive dressing was applied. The tourniquet was deflated, circulation returned to the left hand with normal capillary refill. The patient was

awoken and transported to the recovery room in stable condition. The patient tolerated the procedure well, there were no complications.

Scott Sagerman, M.D.

SS/jmt
D: 10/28/2003
T: 10/29/2003 14:52:37

cc: Scott Sagerman, M.D., <Dictator>
Mitchell Grobman, M.D.

NORTHWEST COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS

MLS: 55235
DD: Tue Mar 09 20:02:00 2004 CST
DT: Wed Mar 10 02:12:39 2004 EST
JN: 27318

PREOPERATIVE HISTORY AND PHYSICAL

DATE OF ADMISSION: 03/10/2004 12:00 AM EST

DATE OF BIRTH: 03/19/70

DATE OF SURGERY: 03/10/04

HISTORY OF PRESENT ILLNESS: The patient is a 33-year-old male who reports symptoms of left medial elbow pain and intermittent paresthesias due to ulnar neuritis decubitus tunnel. Previously he underwent decubital tunnel release surgery in October of 2003 which resulted in some improvement in his symptoms, however, due to persistent symptoms he is now being admitted for additional surgery.

PAST MEDICAL HISTORY: Negative.

MEDICATIONS: Naproxen.

ALLERGIES: None.

HABITS: Smoking history is positive.

FAMILY HISTORY: Noncontributory.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION:
VITAL SIGNS: Stable.
LUNGS: Clear.
HEART: Rate is regular.
EXTREMITIES: The left elbow shows healed surgical scar across the cubital tunnel. Range of motion is satisfactory. Circulation and sensation are intact distally. There is ulnar nerve subluxation at the cubital tunnel and paresthesias with flexion and extension of the elbow. Circulation and sensation are intact distally.

X-rays of the left elbow are negative.

IMPRESSION: Left ulnar neuritis at the cubital tunnel with nerve subluxation.

TREATMENT PLAN: Repeat neurolysis left ulnar nerve with anterior transposition. Surgery scheduled under general anesthesia in Day Surgery. The patient understands the risks, benefits and possible complications of surgery and requests to proceed.

Scott D. Sagerman, MD