

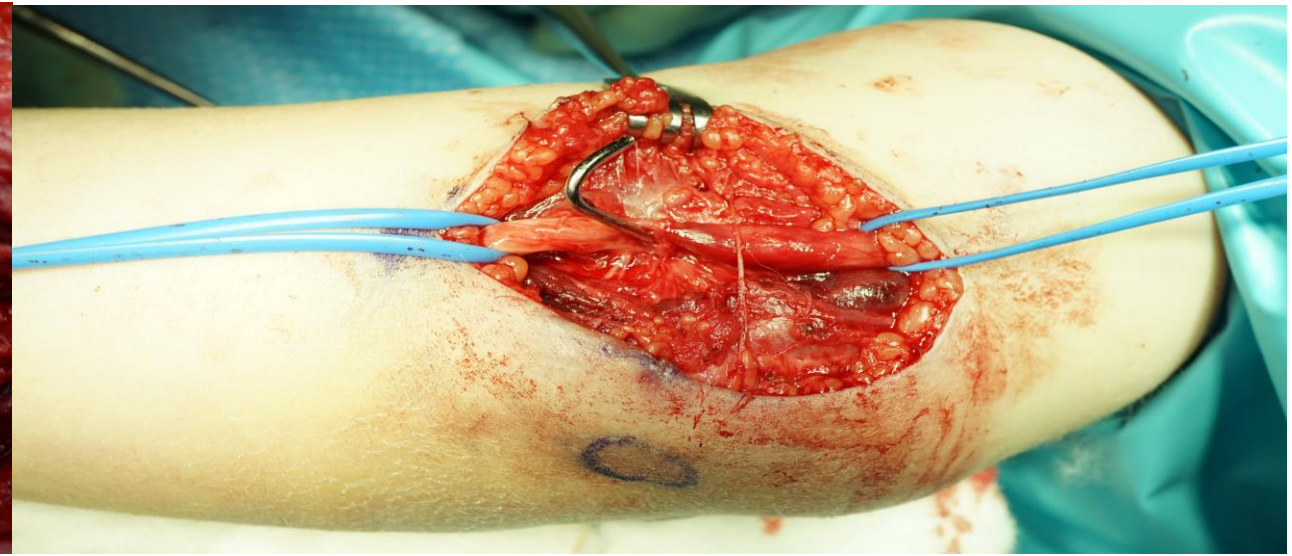
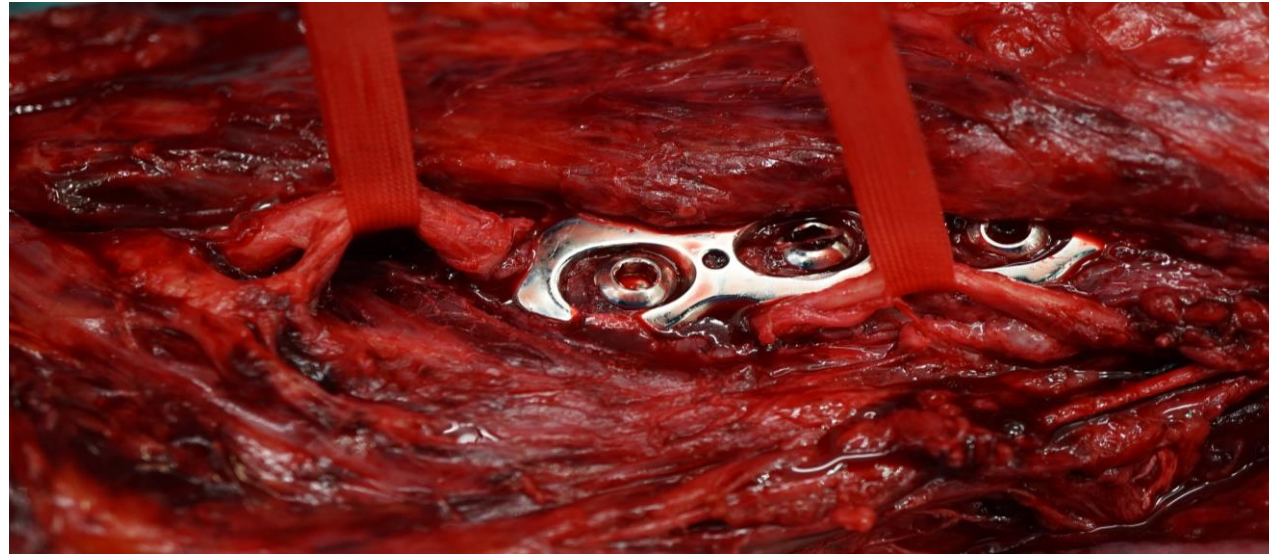


wrightington
Upper Limb Unit



A Review of 100 Iatrogenic Nerve Palsies - Delay in Referrals Remain Significant

SH Ajwani, J Singh, CY Ng



Aim

- ✔ To analyse referral patterns of iatrogenic nerve injuries

Methods

- ✔ Retrospective review of a prospectively-managed database
- ✔ Patients who presented with new-onset postoperative nerve palsy
- ✔ Cutaneous neuromas alone were excluded



Results

- ✓ 2013 - 2019
- ✓ 100 patients (56 females : 44 males)
- ✓ Mean age 53 years (range 5 - 87)
- ✓ Apart from one referral made intraoperatively ...

Median duration from the index operation to the date of referral
6 months (Range 7 days - 7 years)

32% referrals were made >12 months after the index operations



Type of nerves injured	Number
Radial nerve	18
Spinal accessory nerve	12
Sciatic nerve	12
Axillary nerve	10
Ulnar nerve	10
Median nerve	6
Tibial nerve	6
Posterior interosseous nerve	6
Musculocutaneous nerve	5
Common peroneal nerve	4
Medial cord	3
Long thoracic nerve	2
Pan-infraclavicular brachial plexus	2
Femoral nerve	2
Lateral cord	1
C5 root	1
Total	100

Index procedures	Number
Arthroplasty	38
Plating	18
Soft tissue excision biopsy	14
Wiring	6
Tenodesis	4
Nailing	4
Removal of metalwork	3
Entrapment release	3
Arthroscopy	3
Fusion	1
Manipulation	1
Ligament Repair	1
Ligament Reconstruction	1
Tendon Reconstruction	1
Injection	1
Thoracotomy	1
Total	100

Conclusion

- ✦ Delay in referring iatrogenic nerve injuries remain significant
- ✦ Majority of the cases will warrant exploration \pm secondary reconstructive surgery and delay in treatment may have a negative impact on the ultimate outcome
- ✦ Need for increasing awareness about the issue and continuing surgical education

