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COMPLICATIONS AND SUCCESSES IN CARPAL TUNNEL SYNDROME SURGERY

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Abstract

The disappointment of carpal passage disorder (S.T.C.) medical procedure relies upon misdiagnosis or complexities that can't be turned around precipitously. The creators examined and talked about the first grouping of all entanglements that may happen during S.T.C. medical procedure. Difficulties were separated into three gatherings: 1) industrious side effects, 2) repeat of manifestations, and 3) new side effects. In the principal gathering, in light of the fact that the distal or proximal transverse carpal tendon was inadequate, the middle nerve was decompressed not completely or not. The subsequent gathering included perineural scar stringy hypertrophy and hypertrophic tenosynovitis of the flexing belt. The third gathering incorporates numerous subgroups and further subdivisions, which are accounted for right now. The fundamental subgroups are: pathology of skin scars, torment indications of neurogenic source identified with skin scars, torment side effects random to skin scars, other neurological difficulties, vascular complexities, ligament inconveniences, diminished hold quality in hands, disease, Malnutrition, because of torment. The creators additionally recognize characteristic reversible entanglements and irreversible confusions, and correspond them with the kind of careful procedure utilized in open, shut, and endoscopy.

Keywords: *carpal tunnel syndrome, surgical treatment, Hand surgery, complications*

Introduction

The failures of the surgical therapy of the syndrome of the Carpal Tunnel (S.T.C.) depend on or from errors in diagnosis or the appearance of complications not spontaneously reversible. The complications, reversible or persistent, they are related the various surgical techniques used for the opening of the carpal tunnel: open-air, closed-air or in endoscopy. The classification of complications of S.T.C. surgical therapy it's quoted in Table. 1.

CLASSIFICATION ANALYSIS

A. Persistence of symptoms

The persistence of symptoms after surgery for S.T.C., is generally related to:

1. **Incomplete or no decompression of the median nerve**
   This is done for an incomplete section of the distal part of the transverse ligament of the carpus (L.T.C.), or of the distal part of the anti-brachial fascia.
2. **Incomplete section of the L.T.C. in the distal part**
   Numerous authors have found this complication in the course of reintervention (1-10). It is a spontaneous non-reversible complication, more frequent in cases operated with the closed-air technique.

3. **Incomplete distal section of the antebrachial fascia**

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It is a spontaneously reversible complication, quite rare (9-10). It can be found in cases operated with only a palmar, short or long incision.

4. **Missed section of the L.T.C.**
This is an extremely rare complication (9). It can be assumed that a partial part of the L.T.C. can repair with a connective tissue such as to mislead the surgeon on reoperation.

Table 1: Classification of complications of S.T.C. surgery

Industriousness OF SYMPTOMS
- Incomplete or no decompression of the middle nerve
- Incomplete area of the L.T.C. in the distal part
- Incomplete distal area of the antebrachial belt
- Missed area of the L.T.C.
RELAPT OF SYMPTOMS
- Peri apprehensive stringy cicatricial scar
- Hypertrophic tenosynovitis of the flexor ligaments
APPEARANCE OF NEW SYMPTOMS
- Pathology of the skin scar
- Painful indications of anxious starting point identified with the skin scar
- Neuroma from area of the palmar cutaneous part of the middle nerve or of tactile parts of the spiral nerve
- Mini-neuromas from area of the parts of the bargains parts of the middle nerve and/or of the ulnar nerve
- Adhesion of the middle nerve to the skin scar
- Painful indications not identified with the skin scar
- Tender and hypothenar torment (column torment)
- Piso-pyramidal torment
- Other apprehensive confusions
- Total or halfway injury of the middle or ulnar nerves or their branches
- Non-existing pressure of the ulnar nerve to the Guyon channel
- Vascular difficulties
- Non-genuine vascular injury hematoma
- Severe vascular injury
- Tendon confusions
- Adherences between the flexor ligaments
- Anterior subluxation of the flexor ligaments with rope impact
- Non-existing snap fingers
- Subluxation of flexor ligaments outside the carpal waterway
- Injury of flexor ligaments
- Reduction of the hand grasping power
- Infection
- Algodystrophic
- Causalgia

Backslide of side effects

After a postoperative relapse stage, the side effects of S.T.C. they can repeat, by and large following half a month. The most successive reasons for reoperation are: additives scar multiplication and hypertrophic tenosynovitis of the flexor ligaments.

Perinervous sinewy scar multiplication

This is an immediately non-reversible confusion, most as often as possible found in open medical procedure (1, 2, 5, 6). The cicatricial bonds of the middle nerve can be accomplished with the outspread mass of the passage (11), with the reparative scar of the L.T.C. (7-9, 11) or with the ligaments of the flexors of the fingers or thumb (11). The peri apprehensive stringy scar multiplication is encouraged by hematomas and a radical tenosnovectomy, particularly whenever related with an absence of postoperative activation of the fingers.

Hypertrophic tenosynovitis of the flexor ligaments

It is a normal finding in mediations for repeat of S.T.C. side effects. (1, 2, 4-7). It is an unconstrained non-reversible confusion, progressively visit after shut or endoscopic activities, in which tenosynovectomy has not been performed even within the sight of critical hypertrophy of the synovial flexor ligaments.

New side effects show up

The postoperative appearance of new side effects is an incessant reason for disappointments in careful mediations for S.T.C. These manifestations are connected differently by recurrence according to the different procedures performed.

Pathology of the skin scar

Careful entry points that oppositely cross the distal overlay of the wrist will in general become hypertrophic or keloid and frequently withdrawing (12). Indeed, even in the accurately drawn out cuts on the lower arm, the antebrachial part has a continuous inclination to become hypertrophic or keloid (2).

Agonizing side effects of related apprehensive beginning to the skin scar

Right now, have united three gatherings of inconveniences, portrayed by torment in the skin scar and by apprehensive beginning.

Sectional neuroma of the palmar cutaneous part of the middle nerve or of tangible parts of the outspread nerve

The area of the palmar cutaneous branch (R.C.P.) of the middle nerve, with resulting neuroma by and large holding fast to the skin scar, causes an away from of the scar itself, regularly intense and handicapping.

This is an unexpectedly non-reversible difficulty that can happen all the more as often as possible in the cuts transverse to the distal overlap of the wrist and in the peritenary cuts, delayed in the lower arm. The frequency rate was 6% on 186 intercessions (13) and 8% on 690 mediations (14).
Difficult neuromas from segment of tangible parts of the outspread nerve are very remarkable in S.T.C. medical procedure (9).

Sectional small-scale neuromas of the parts of the bargain's parts of the middle nerve and/or ulnar nerve

The skin of the palm is innervated by the last parts of the palm in the middle nerve and in the ulnar nerve. Along these lines, each careful entry point incides decides the parts of the fringe nerve with the subsequent arrangement of minute neoplasms. This frequently makes the careful scar excruciating and touchy in the initial not many months after medical procedure. Thus, it is a reversible confusion that can be consequently switched inside a half year, particularly if an entry

point is made in the palm in the fourth computerized beam (15-17), which is the line between the middle innervation and the ulna.

Adhesion of the median nerve to the skin scar

A rare, but serious complication of surgical treatment of S.T.C., is represented by the anterior subluxation of the median nerve, anterior to the fascial plane, with adherence to the skin scar. This complication may be associated with anterior subluxation of the flexor tendons. Favorable conditions are the section of the L.T.C. on the radial side, the removal of part of the L.T.C. and the possibility that in the postoperative period the wrist may maintain a flexion position. This complication was found in 12.5% of cases out of 40 reoperations (5) and in 2.6% of cases out of 690 first interventions (14).

Painful symptoms not related to the skin scar

This section includes tender and hypotenaric pain and piso-pyramidal pain.

Tender and hypotenaric pain

In the postoperative course for S.T.C. Pain in the tender and hypotenary region has been described, which is accentuated by local pressure and hand grip. Such a painful complication, called "pillar pain" generally regresses in a few months (18). It is currently believed that tender and hypotenaric pain is of muscular origin and depends on the temporary instability of aponevrotic insertions of the tender and hypotenary muscles, following the section of the L.T.C. (19).
It is therefore a spontaneously reversible complication, not related to the surgical technique but to the section of the L.T.C.

Piso-pyramidal pain

Hypoteneal postoperative pain, which generally subsides within six months like tender pain, can in few cases be prolonged indefinitely, with repercussions on the strength of the hand. Pain is localized in the piso-pyramidal joint. Seradge and Seradge (16) interpret piso-pyramidal pain as secondary to an inconsistency of the piso-pyramidal joint, in subjects who already had an asymptomatic pathology of this joint. The painful symptoms would be caused by the section of the L.T.C., which would cause the loss of joint stability of the pisiform. It is therefore a complication not spontaneously reversible, not related to the surgical technique, but to the section of the L.T.C.

Other nervous complications

I understand in this section the cases of total or partial lesion of the median or ulnar nerves or their branches and the cases of non-existing compression of the ulnar nerve to the Guyon canal.

Total or partial injury of the median or ulnar nerves or their branches

The cases announced in the writing are fairly rare. Most are portrayed after intercessions performed with scaled down cuts with or without endoscopic guide. The responses to a survey composed among the individuals from the American Society for Surgery of the Hand (ASSH) for the period 1990-95 (20) are especially intriguing. Mediations without endoscopy are not determined whether open or shut. Out of 616 instances of intercessions performed without endoscopic guide, coming up next were found:

- 23 complete injuries of the middle nerve and 11 of the ulnar nerve;
- 102 incomplete injuries of the middle nerve and 15 of the ulnar nerve;
- 22 injuries of the solid part of the middle nerve and 3 of that of the ulnar nerve:
- 54 injuries of the tangible parts of the middle nerves and ulnar;
- 12 vague injuries of the middle nerve.

Out of 708 instances of intercessions acted in endoscopy have been found:
- 17 complete injuries of the middle nerve and 8 of the ulnar nerve;
- 28 fractional sores of the middle nerve and 8 of the ulnar nerve;
- 5 sores of the strong part of the middle nerve and 5 of that of the ulnar nerve;
- 1 sore of the touchy parts of the ulnar nerve;

- 50 unknown sores of the middle nerve and 66 of the ulnar nerve.

Basically, these are not kidding entanglements that can't be switched precipitously, increasingly visit in activities performed under shut conditions or in endoscopy.

Non-existing compression of the ulnar nerve to the Guyon canal

This complication has been described in a retrospective multicenter study on 690 cases operated for S.T.C. (14). At remote control, a compression syndrome of the ulnar nerve to the Guyon canal was found, which was not pre-existing after surgery, in 21 out of 690 cases, equal to 3%. It is likely that the operative trauma in the adjacent carpal tunnel could cause compression of the ulnar nerve, in probably predisposed subjects.

Vascular complications

We distinguish hematomas from non-serious vascular lesion, which do not require reintervention, from more serious iatrogenic vascular lesions, which require immediate surgical revision.

Non-serious vascular injury hematoma

A first cause of hematoma is related to the failure to cauterize small subcutaneous veins. This complication can occur more easily when, in the small or large incisions located in the palm, the section of the distal part of the anti-brachial fascia is performed subcutaneously. Another cause of hematoma is related to bleeding resulting from tenosynovectomy, not followed by accurate hemostasis (19).

Severe vascular injury

The cases reported in the literature are not numerous. The results of the aforementioned questionnaire, organized among the members of the ASSH, relating to the period 1990-95 (20) are significant.

Out of 616 cases of interventions for S.T.C. performed without endoscopic aid have been found:

- 21 lesions of the superficial palmar arch;
- 11 ulnar artery lesions;
- 2 lesions of the radial artery

Out of 708 cases of interventions for S.T.C. performed under endoscopy were found:

- 86 lesions of the superficial palmar arch;
- 34 ulnar artery lesions:
- 1 lesion of the radial artery.

These are complications that are not spontaneously reversible, which require immediate surgical treatment and are more frequent in interventions performed under closed conditions or in endoscopy.

Tendon complications

In this paragraph I understand numerous pathologies.

Adhesions between the flexor tendons

A picture of scar fibrous proliferation can affect only the flexor tendons, without involving the median nerve. The adhesions between the flexor tendons can occur above all after extensive tenosynovectomy, without proper hemostasis and adequate postoperative mobilization of the fingers (13-12). This is a spontaneously reversible complication, more frequent after open surgery.

Anterior subluxation of the flexor tendons with rope effect

In the normal postoperative course of an intervention for S.T.C., the L.T.C. dissected cicatrizes allowing a greater volume of the carpal canal. A new pulley is therefore rebuilt, less tense than before, but such as to keep the flexor tendons and the median nerve in place in the carpal canal. In rare cases, in the absence of a correct cicatricial repair of the L.T.C., the

flexor tendons can sublux anteriorly being in contact with the subcutaneous plane, creating the typical cord effect, with a reduction of the hand gripping force (13).
This is a spontaneously reversible complication that occurs in open-air operations, especially if a part of the L.T.C. is removed. and leave your wrist free to stay flexed.

Non-existing snap fingers
In very rare cases, the appearance of non-existing snap fingers has been found after surgery for S.T.C. (21). It can be considered that this pathology depends on the overload on the flexor tendons of the fingers at the level of the pulleys of the MF, due to the diminished proximal pulley effect, consequent to the section of the L.T.C.

This is a complication that is not spontaneously reversible, not related to the surgical technique but to the section of the L.T.C.

Subluxation of flexor tendons outside the carpal canal
During reinterventions for S.T.C. a subluxation of flexor tendons of the fingers (superficial of the 5th and / or 4th) has rarely been found outside the carpal canal from the ulnar side, with climbing over the hook of the hook (19, 22). This is a complication that is not spontaneously reversible, less rare in operations with the open-air technique. Favoring factors are the too ulnar section of the L.T.C. and the lack of postoperative immobilization of the wrist in extension.

Injury of flexor tendons
From literature data, the injury of flexor tendons of the fingers during surgery for S.T.C. represents an exceptional event. From the responses to the aforementioned questionnaire organized for the members of the ASSH, for the period 1990-95 (20), the complication appears less rare than believed.
Out of 616 cases of interventions carried out for S.T.C. without endoscopic aid have been found:

- 19 tendon lesions, of which 13 complete and 6 partial; Out of 708 cases of interventions for S.T.C. carried out in endoscopy have been found:
- 69 tendon lesions, of which 7 complete and 62 partial.

These are complications that are not spontaneously reversible, more frequent in operations performed with the closed-air technique or in endoscopy.

Reduction of the hand gripping force

After surgery for S.T.C. the gripping force of the hand decreases considerably in the first few weeks, only to recover more or less completely in the following months. To obtain a more rapid postoperative recovery of the gripping force, some authors have proposed the surgical reconstruction in lengthening of the L.T.C. (23-26).

After a few months, the results of the open-air operated groups, with or without surgical reconstruction of the L.T.C., are in fact superimposable (25-27). Similarly, after a few months, the results of the groups operated in the open air or in endoscopy are similar (28-29).

In conclusion, it is evident that, after surgery for S.T.C., the reduction of the hand gripping force represents a minor and spontaneously reversible complication. It is not related to a surgical technique, but to the section of the L.T.C., with the consequent temporary loss or decrease of the pulley effect.

Infection
The onset of postoperative infections, following interventions for S.T.C., is rarely reported in the literature. Gainer and Nugent (30) found 6% of superficial infections out of 430 interventions, Kluge et al. (31), 5% of 89 interventions. Hanssen et al. (32) found 0.47% of deep infections out of 3620 interventions.

The most important infectious risk factors are hematomas, marginal skin necrosis and local intraoperative infiltrations of corticosteroids, often used by American surgeons (33).

Complex Regional Pain Syndrome

Some authors have provided statistical data on the onset of algodystrophic complication in S.T.C. surgery. Lichtman et al. (34) report 5% of 100 interventions, Clayburg et al. (35) 5% of 60 interventions, Barca et al. (14) 3.5% of 690 interventions.

The main risk factors are represented by individual predisposition, understood as psychic lability (36) or as neurovegetative instability (34), and by the onset of acute and prolonged postoperative pain symptoms. This symptomatology is often caused by a hematoma and / or a compression bandage kept for a few days. This is a non-specific complication of the surgical treatment of S.T.C., which must be prevented and treated at the first onset.

Causalgia

Causalgia is a syndrome characterized by spontaneous, constant, burning pain, often unbearable, which seriously interferes with the patient's relationship life. It is generally related to a nerve injury, often partial. This very serious complication occurs very rarely in the postoperative course of an intervention for S.T.C.

The main risk factor occurs with internal neurolysis of the median nerve (2, 12), when the nerve contracts adhesions with the walls of the tunnel or, after anterior subluxation, with the skin scar. Causalgia is a very serious, non-spontaneous and non-specific complication of surgical treatment of S.T.C.

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