

A Case Report Of End-To-Side Radial Nerve Transfer To Median Nerve For Brachial Plexus Neuralgia: A Simple Alternative Solution For Complex Problem

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INTRODUCTION:

Brachial plexus neuralgia can be challenging to manage and leads to poor quality of life. We describe end-to-side superficial radial nerve to median nerve transfer as part of management of brachial plexus neuralgia.

CASE REPORT:

The patient is a 59 years old Malay gentleman who is a victim of motor vehicle accident in 2012 and sustained right scapulothoracic dissociation with upper right brachial plexus injury(BPI), presented to us with complains of neuralgic pain 2 years post trauma, which did not respond to any form of treatment. End-to-side superficial radial nerve transfer to median nerve was performed on 19/6/2017 to help manage his pain, as described by Leechavengvongs et al in 2011 with addition of primary carpal tunnel release.

RESULTS:

Although patient did not report immediate improvement of pain post op, patient claim 40% reduction in pain with improvement quality of sleep 3 months post op.

DISCUSSIONS:

Pain post BPI is common as surveys in 2015 and 2017 showed between 56%-76% of patient suffering from BPI complained of neuralgic pain of variable types and severity

The pain relief provided by this technique is thought to be due to the return of inhibitory stimulus within the spinal cord which was lost in BPI. In our case report, we have attempted to widen the indication of this technique by including our patient whom clinically has brachial plexus injury from C5 to C7. Although we did not manage to achieve the degree of pain relief as described by Leechavengvongs et al, it has allowed the patient to have better sleep quality, thus improving his quality of life.

CONCLUSION:

With this case report, we hope to create more interest among surgeons to consider this technique in managing intractable pain post BPI as this technique is relatively simple with minimal drawback.

REFERENCE:

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