Lumps and Bumps: Soft Tissue and Bony Masses of the Wrist

Brady Huang 4/27/2010

BACKGROUND

- Masses of the wrist (and hand) are common indications for patients to be referred for imaging
- Some patients may present with painless or painful masses; others present with pain from occult masses

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Discuss the clinical features of wrist masses and approach to the work-up and evaluation
- Understand pertinent anatomy pertaining to these masses
- Become familiar with some wrist masses with characteristic features
- Focus is on wrist, but will discuss some hand



UNKNOWNS



















PD

PD











T2FS

T1

TISSUE ORIGINS

Soft tissue Connective Tissue Adipose Synovial ♦ Neural Vascular Muscle Mixed Osseous

THERE WAS NEVER A GANGLION IN THE WRIST THAT I COULDN'T FIND

22 M s/p "wrist sprain"



T1

T2 FS

"A very small ganglion cyst is seen just dorsal to the dorsal aspect of the scapholunate interosseous ligament, where it likely arises (series 4, image 11), and measures less than 1 mm in size."



- Most common soft-tissue mass in the hand & wrist (60%)¹
- Thought to arise from myxoid degeneration of connective tissue, commonly after minor trauma
- Contain mucinous fluid of glucosamine, albumin, globulin, & hyaluronic acid
- Wall is acellular with randomly oriented collagen
- Lack of synovial lining distinguishes ganglion from a true synovial cyst

- Location: Commonly at dorsal scapho-lunate interval
 - 75% connect with dorsal S-L interosseous ligament in area of capsular attachment
 - Also volar radiocarpal joint
 - Can be intraosseous
- Dorsal ganglion may present with dull aching pain due to a constant relationship to terminal branches of the posterior interosseous nerve²
- Terminal sensory branch of PIN in deep radial aspect of 4th dorsal compartment³
- Larger ganglions can compress branches of the superficial radial nerve¹

Dellon. J Hand Surg 1978 Ay S. Clin Anat 2005



Reissis. J Hand Surg Br 1992

Volar Ganglions



US & MRI:

- Both show a defined cystic lesion with a thin wall; often multilobulated
- Intracystic hemorrhage or infection can complicate appearance
- Arthrography: Cyst should not (technically) communicate with joint space
- Treatment: Observation, closed rupture, cyst aspiration, surgical excision; can recur



VOLAR



Volar Ganglions

- 13-20% of hand/wrist ganglions¹
 - 2/3 = radio-scaphoid
 - 1/3 = scapho-trapezial
- Occult presentation less common than dorsal
- May present with sensory or motor symptoms of the median or ulnar nerves
- High recurrence with aspiration
- Higher recurrence with surgery than dorsal cysts

Volar Ganglions



FCR

35 F w/ recurrent cysts



51 F w/ Enlarging Volar Wrist Mass After Minor Trauma



51-year-old Female w/ Enlarging Volar Wrist Mass After Minor Trauma









40 F w/ a Palpable Wrist Mass



40 F w/ a Palpable Wrist Mass



3 F w/ incidental wrist lump



Intraosseous Ganglion Cysts

Commonly scaphoid and lunate

- May be primarily in bone or juxta-osseous with intraosseous extension
- May be a cause of unexplained wrist pain⁴
- MRI/CT helps with surgical planning
 - Currettage and bone grafting for large lesions
52 M casino dealer w/ dorsal wrist pain, no provided h/o trauma



GANGLION CYST

- When is imaging actually helpful?
 - Smaller or occult carpal ganglia, which can be very painful
- How accurate are we? ⁵
 - 160 patients w/ carpal ganglia:
 - 156 = ganglia
 - 4 = synovial tissue x 3; reactive changes w/ no cyst
 - Savings = \$352 / pt = \$55,263



35 M painless thenar mass



LIPOMA

- Common solid cellular tumor with mature fatty tissue that can occur almost anywhere in the musculoskeletal system
- The wrist/hand is a common site for lipomas!
- Fibrous capsule usually too small to resolve w/ imaging
- Locations:
 - Thenar eminence most common site ⁶
 - Superficial > Intramuscular
 - Guyon canal or carpal tunnel or anywhere!!
- CT: Low fatty attenuation (-65 to 120 HU)
- MRI: High T1/T2, low SI on FS images, no internal enhancement although may see rim enhancement of displaced tissue or vessels
 - Treatment: Excision if symptomatic; Recurrence rare

Capelastegui. Skeletal Radiol 1999

Thenar Eminence: Superficial



Thenar Eminence: Intramuscular



62 F with snuffbox mass



T2 FS

T1

T1 FS +

ARTHRITIDES/SYNOVIAL PROCESSES

ARTHRITIDES & SYNOVIAL PROCESSES

- OA: osteophytes
- Arthritides:
 - Joint effusions
 - RA synovial proliferation = synovitis, tenosynovitis, bursitis
 - Gout: Tophi, tenosynovitis, bursitis
- Others:
 - Overuse tendonitis/tenosynovitis
 - Synovial (osteo)chondromatosis
 - PVNS/GCTTS
 - Infection

RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

- Synovial hypertrophy (pannus) with erosions, joint space narrowing and soft tissue swelling
- Tenosynovitis often presenting symptom, preceding erosive changes⁷
- CT: Detects early subchondral erosions, insensitive for chondral lesions; Pannus enhances
 - MRI:
 - Tenosynovitis
 - Erosions +/- marrow edema
 - Chondral loss
 - Joint effusions
 - Enhancing pannus

Harris ED. Kelley's Textbook of Rheumatology 2005 Wright PE. Campbell's Operative Orthopedics 2008 72 F with RA, growing "mass" in the palm of the hand



T1 FS +

47 F with pain, tenderness, & fullness



47 F with pain, tenderness, & fullness



SynovialBonyHypertrophyErosions

No Normal TFC



Case Courtesy of K. Chen, MD



25 F w/ dorsal tenosynovitis





Intermediate FS



T1 FS +

53 F w/ dorsal and radial-sided pain/swelling: De Quervain's

Tendinosis/Tenosynovitis APL & EPB



PD FS

64 F w/ swelling & carpal tunnel x 8 mo's: TB ⁹



Hsu. *AJR* 2004

58 M w/ TB infection of right wrist ⁹



Hsu. *AJR* 2004

PALMAR SPACES



PALMAR SPACES





Campbell's Operative Orthopaedics, 11th ed.

59 M w/ left wrist swelling & decreased ROM

Articular Erosions w/ Overhanging Margins

Soft Tissue Mass Vascular Calcifications

59 M w/ left wrist swelling & decreased ROM

Extensor Tendon Tensynovitis



T2 Intense Mass w/ Carpal Bones Erosion/Destruction



PD

T2 FS

TOPHACEOUS GOUT

- Marginated erosions with overhanging edges and soft tissue tophi
- Can often mimic other processes
- Commonly due to underexcretion of urate (90%) vs. overproduction; This patient had diabetes & renal failure
- MRI: Low T1/Heterogenous T2 tophi with variable enhancement

CT: Gouty tophi

- ♦ HU = 160
- Dual energy CT (80/140 kV) may obviate joint aspiration, assess disease burden (rheumatologist's love this!) ¹²

50 M s/p FOOSH¹²



Resnick. IDJ 2007 Nicolaou. AJR 2010

71 M painful Lt hand¹²



Nicolaou. AJR 2010

60 M w/ right hand mass





60 M w/ right hand mass



Masses T1 Isointense to Muscle Displacing Tendons; Bony Erosions (arrowhead) Masses Have Low T2 SI on Fat-Suppressed Images

Strong Enhancement

GIANT CELL TUMOR OF THE TENDON SHEATH (GCTTS)

- Reported to be second most common soft tissue mass of the hand
- Benign tumor of giant cells near joints/tendons, w/ intra- & extracellular hemosiderin
- Finger involvement >> wrist
- Extra-articular form of PVNS (same thing histologically and cytogenetically) ^{13,14}
- Commonly asymptomatic & slow-growing
- Location: Volar > Dorsal
- Radiography: ±soft tissue mass; marginated pressure erosions of bone
- **CT:** High density mass from iron content, enhancing synovium
- MRI: low/intermediate SI on T1 & T2 SI w/ areas of low SI from hemosiderin, especially on T2*/GRE (causes blooming); intense contrast enhancement
- **Treatment:** Excision difficult, recurrence common (10-50%)

Nahra. *Hand Clin* 2004 Ofluoglu O. *Ortho Clin N Am* 2006







88 F w/ left hand mass

5 cm

LHP

5 cm



Case Courtesy of K. Chen, MD



Case Courtesy of K. Chen, MD

60 M w/ wrist swelling



SYNOVIAL (OSTEO)CHONDROMATOSIS

- Non-neoplastic proliferation of cartilaginous nodules in the synovium of joints, bursae or tendon sheaths
- Monoarthropathy: knee > hip > shoulder > elbow
- In the wrist, extra-articular invovlement is common (tenosyovium, bursa)
- Radiography:
 - Multiple calcified nodules of uniform size
 - Calcifications absent in ¼ to 1/3
 - Pressure erosions
- MRI:
 - Low signal nodules if mineralized
 - High signal fatty elements centrally if present
- Treatment: synovectomy & removal of loose bodies
60 M w/ wrist swelling





VASCULAR



Increased SI in dilated ulnar artery

Perivascular enhancement with no intravascular enhancement Tortuous, aneurysmal ulnar artery; proximal ulnar artery w/ normal flow void



MRA



MRA





MRA





04/10

MRA





05/10

MRA





MRA





MRA





MRA









Palmar arches and digital arteries supplied by radial artery

Abrupt termination of ulnar artery at the wrist



HYPOTHENAR HAMMER SYNDROME

- Due to chronic trauma to the hypothenar eminence, such as using the palm as a hammer or catching a baseball
- Leads to aneurysm formation and/or thrombosis of the ulnar artery in the Guyon Canal, usually at the level of the hamulus; can compress branches of the ulnar nerve & cause digital ischemia
- Angiography: Two appearances
 - Ulnar artery aneurysm with "corkscrew" appearance; digital artery emboli can be seen, especially 3rd through 5th fingers
 - Focal ulnar artery occlusion at hypothenar eminence
- **US:** Can help determine size of aneurysm, particularly when *occluded*
- CT: CTA useful for vascular mapping & can define bony lesions (including hamate fracture & relationship to hamulus)
- MRI:
 - Delineates extent of aneurysm/thrombosis
 - MRA shows similar findings as traditional angiography, but resolution is limited in the digital arteries
- Treatment: conservative, thrombolysis, resection, or vein graft interpostion

GUYON'S CANAL AND ULNAR NEUROVASCULAR BUNDLE



Ligamentum Flexorum

Ligamentum Carpi Palmare

GUYON'S CANAL AND ULNAR NEUROVASCULAR BUNDLE

6

Opponens digiti minimi

Ulnar Artery

200

DISTAL

Ulnar Vein's

PROXIMAL

Ulnar Nerve and Branches

Deep motor, superifical sensory

H

GUYON'S CANAL AND ULNAR NEUROVASCULAR BUNDLE

7.5 mm

3 - 7 mm



5.8 mm 2 – 8 mm

Blum. RadioGraphics 2006





Palmar arches & digital arteries supplied by radial artery



Palmar arches & digital arteries supplied by radial artery



Palmar arches & digital arteries supplied by radial artery



Palmar arches & digital arteries supplied by radial artery



Palmar arches & digital arteries supplied by radial artery

23 M violinist w/ right ulnar-sided right wrist mass

Soft Tissue Density w/ Small Round Calcifications

Soft Tissue Density w/ Small Round Calcifications

23 M violinist w/ right ulnar-sided right wrist massPDT2 FST1 FS +



Mass Isointense to Muscle w/ Scattered Focal Hypointensities IncreasedT2 SI w/ Scattered Focal Hypointensities Strong Enhancement

VASCULAR MALFORMATION

- Vascular lesions = hemangioma & vascular malformations
- Hemangioma = true neoplastic endothelial proliferation
 - Hand is 3rd most common site
- Vascular malformation = not tumors, but errors of vascular morphogenesis, 2 possible classification schema
 - Vessel type: capillary, venous, arterial, & lymphatic
 - Flow type: high, low

VASCULAR MALFORMATION

- Radiography: Phleboliths pathognomonic for venous malformations (VM's)
- CT:
 - Precontrast: Soft-tissue attenuating mass, phleboliths, ±fat
 - Postcontrast: Serpentine enhancement
- MRI:
 - High T2 in slow flow lesions, flow voids in AVM's
 - low SI from phleboliths
 - Fluid/fluid levels in lymphatic malformations
- US: heterogeneous mass w/ +Doppler flow & shadowing phleboliths (VM's)
- Angiography: vascular mass, can perform therapeutic embolization
- Treatment: If resection is performed, wide margins necessary to minimize recurrence





18 yo waitress with severe wrist pain



Case Courtesy of K. Chen, MD

18 yo waitress with severe wrist pain



Case Courtesy of K. Chen, MD

LIPOFIBROMATOUS (FIBROLIPOMATOUS) HAMARTOMA

- Infiltration of mature fat in the nerve & separating axonal bundles w/ thickening of the individual bundles by perineural/endoneural fibrosis
- Imaging Findings: Enlarged nerve with numerous axon bundles surrounded by a substratum of fibrofatty tissue
- Presentation: Macrodactyly (25%), mass lesion, or compressive neuropathy; ±history of trauma
 - **Location:** Median nerve > Ulnar nerve
 - Rarely in lower extremity
 - Can be multifocal

- MRI: Exam of choice & considered diagnostic
 - Classically: Enlarged cable-like axonal bundles (2-3mm) surrounded by T1 hyperintensity (lipid) in substratum
 - Atypical Appearance: T1 SI can be low in substratum if there is altered distribution of fibrous & fatty elements ¹⁶
- US: Longitudinally oriented alternating hyperechoic & hypoechoic bands
- Treatment: Excision not recommended as LFH is inseparable from nerve

57 F w/ Palpable Volar Mass



No Volar Mass Appreciated

57 F w/ Palpable Volar Mass



46 M w/ right wrist pain and LFH



Typical Appearance, axial PD: Cylindrical longitudinallyoriented thin curvilinear zones of low signal (axon bundles) within a background of intermediate-high signal (lipid)
31 yo F w/ LFH: US Findings



TRANS

LONG

Hypoechoic cablelike neural bundles separated by hyperechoic fat.

46 M w/ Right Wrist Pain

T1

T1 FS

T2 FS



Median Nerve (Arrow): Normal Low/Intermediate SI on All Sequences Ulnar Nerve (Arrowhead): Multiple Thickened Low SI Axonal Bundles w/ Interspersed Fat (High T1 & Low SI on Fat-Suppressed Images)

35 M w/ palmar mass



T1 intermediate fusiform mass arising from the median nerve

35 M w/ palmar mass



Intermediate FS



T1 FS +

Int FS PD T1 FS +

PERIPHERAL NERVE SHEATH TUMORS

- Schwannoma & neurofibromas
- 8-9% found in the hand and wrist
- Schwannomas most frequently encountered neural tumor in the hand ¹⁷
- Schwannomas = encapsulated, from Schwann cells
- Neurofibromas = (usually) unencapsulated, from Schwann cells, fibroblasts, perinerual cells
- MRI:
 - Schwannomas = low T1, high/hetero T2, low signal capsule, eccentric with nerve
 - Neurofibromas = Target T2 appearance, fusiform with nerve
- Treatment: Schwannomas enucleated, neurofibromas left

35 M w/ palmar mass



T1

Thin hypointense fibrous rim

Maintainance of a thin rim of surrounding fat







44 M s/p injury (driving a sign post)







T2 FS

CARPAL BOSS

- Common anomalous osseous structure, b/w trapezoid, capitate, and 2nd and 3rd MC's
- From accessory ossification = os styloideum?
 - More often fused to bone, than separate ossicle
- Predisposes to localized OA
- May be confused clinically and coexist w/ ganglia
- Assoc. w/ ECRB and ECRL tendonitis/tenosynovitis
- Dorsal bony protuberance 2 & 3rd MCPJ's
 - Special carpal boss view may be helpful
- MRI may demonstrate bone edema in symptomatic cases
- Treatment: Conservative (rest, NSAID, steroid injections), excision

44 M s/p injury (driving a sign post)



Radiography: Carpal Boss View



Lateral

30^o Supination

30⁰ Ulnar Deviation

30⁰ Supnation & Ulnar Deviation

Conway. Radiology 1985

19 F gymnast w/ bilateral symptomatic carpal boss(es)

BM Edema

Dorsal ossicle: Carpal boss





ACCESSORY OSSICLES OF THE CARPALS!!!



1=Os trapezium secundarium; 2=Os trapezoideum secundarium; 3=Os parastyloideum; 4=Os styloideum; 5=Os metastyloideum; 6=Os capitatum secundarium; 7=Os epitrapezium; 8=Os carpi centrale; 9=Os paranaviculare (intercalary bone between scaphoid and radius); 10=Os epilunatum; 11=Os epitriquetrum; 12=Os ulnostyloideum; 13=Os vesalianum manus; 14=Os ulnare externum; 15=Os hamulare basale & Os hamuli proprium; 16=Os gruberi; 17=Os subcapitatum; 18=Os praetrapezium; 19=Os paratrapezium; 20=Os pisiforme secundarium (os ulnare antebrachii); 21=Os triquetrum secundarium (os intermedium antebrachii, os triangulare); 22=Os hypolunatum; 23=Os radiale externum

PRIMARY OSSEOUS TUMORS

- Carpal bones: osteoid osteoma > osteoblastoma > chondroblastoma ¹⁹
 - Capitate and scaphoid more common
- Hand: Enchondromas predominate (>90%)²⁰
 - Proximal phalanges > MC's
 - Chondrosarcoma most common malignant bone tumor
- Distal Radius/Ulna:
 - GCT's (wrist 3rd most common site, radius most common bone in wrist)

Murray. *J Hand Surg Am* 1999 Bauer. *J Hand Surg Am* 1988

Osteoid osteomas



Radiolucent nidus with surrounding sclerosis

Marcuzzi. J Hand Surg Br 2002

13 F Rt wrist pain x 2 months



T1 T1 FS + T2 FS

Diagnosis: Osteoblastoma of the Pisiform

Enchondromas



59 M w/ palpable, painful mass of the right 4th finger



T2 FS









59 M Palpable, painful mass of the right fourth finger

Diagnosis: Chondrosarcoma



30 M distal radius mass x 2 mo's

Geographic lytic lesion, illdefined transition zone;

Cortical expansion and thinning

Soft tissue component



30 M distal radius mass x 2 mo's



Diagnosis: Giant Cell Tumor of Bone w/ Secondary ABC

MUSCLES

Accessory/Anomalous Muscles Ext. Dig. Brevis Manus: Tender Mass/PIN compression

Lumbrica in carpal tunnel syndrome Abber

> minimi c compression Accessory Palmaris longusiil@Mi: Ulr lying muscle nerve co bellies/multiple slips

Accessory Ext. Pollicis Longus: tender mass

Extensor Digitorum Brevis Manus

Accessory muscle at the 4th dorsal compartment

Τ1

Muscle & Soft Tissue Edema



Accessory Muscles

- Clinically confused with ganglia, soft tissue tumors, or tenosynovitis
- Can coexist with ganglia, confusing the clinical picture
- Doral accessory muscles prone to symptomatology due to limitation of space from a tight extensor retinaculum
 - Anomalous ext. indicis proprius
 - EDBM
 - Ext. medii proprius & ext. indicis et medii communis
- Volar muscles rarely may cause compression neuropathies:
 - Aberrant lumbrical in carpal tunnel
 - Accessory abductor digiti minimi
 - Palmaris longus variations

Ogura. *J Hand Surg* 1987 Patel. *J Hand Surg* 1989

SUMMARY

- Wrist masses can be the result of benign tumors and non-neoplastic processes
- Radiography may be helpful in lesions with very characteristic features, but can often be nonspecific
- MRI is an excellent modality for problem solving and can definitively diagnose some conditions





REFERENCES

- 1. Thornburg LE. Ganglions of the hand and wrist. J Am Acad Orthop Surg 1999; 7(4): 231–238.
- Dellon AL, Self SS. Anatomic dissections relating the posterior interosseous nerve to the carpus, and the etiology of dorsal wrist ganglion pain. J Hand Surg 1978;3A:326-332
- 3. Ay S, et al. Anatomic pattern of the terminal branches of posterior interosseous nerve. Clin Anat 2005;18:290–295
- 4. Magee TH. Rowedder AM, Degnan GG. Intraosseus ganglia of the wrist. Radiology 1995; 195(2): 517-520.
- 5. McKeon K, Boyer MI, MD, Goldfarb CA. Use of routine histologic evaluation of carpal ganglions. J Hand Surg [Am] 2006 Feb;31(2):284-288.
- 6. Capelastegui A, Astigarraga E, Fernandez-Canton G, Saralegui I, Larena JA, Merino A. Masses and pseudomasses of the hand and wrist: MR findings in 134 cases. Skeletal Radiol 1999; 28(9): 498–507.
- 7. Harris ED: Clinical features of rheumatoid arthritis, in Harris ED, Budd, RC, Firestein GS, Genovese MC, Sergent JS, Ruddy S, Sledge CB (eds): Kelley's Textbook of Rheumatology, 7th ed. Philadelphia: Elsevier Saunders, 2005, vol 2, pp 1043-1078.
- 8. Wright PE: Arthritic hand, in Canale ST, Beaty JH (eds): Campbell's Operative Orthopedics, 11th ed. Philadelphia: Mosby Elsevier, 2008, vol 4, pp 4195-4258.
- 9. Hsu, CY, Lu HC, Shih TTF. Tuberculous infection of the wrist: MRI Features. AJR 2004;183:623-628
- 10. Aguiar ROC, et al. Radial and Unlar Bursae of wrist. Skeletal Radiol 2006;35: 828–832
- 11. Townsend: Sabiston Textbook of Surgery, 18th ed. Saunders 2007
- 12. Nicolaou S, et al. Dual-energy CT as a potential new diagnostic tool in the management of gout in the acute setting AJR 2010;194:1072–1078
- 13. Nahra ME, Bucchieri JS: Ganglion cysts and other tumor related conditions of the hand and wrist. Hand Clin 2004; 20(3): 249-260
- 14. Ofluoglu O. Pigmented Villonodular Synovitis. Ortho Clin N Am 2006; 37(1): 23-33.
- **15.** Blum AG, Zabel JP, Kohlmann R, Batch T. Barbara K. Zhu X. Dautel G. Dap F. Pathologic Conditions of the Hypothenar Eminence Evaluation with Multidetector CT and MR Imaging. RadioGraphics 2006; 26 (4): 1021-1044.
- **16.** Toms AP, Anastakis D, Bleakney RR, Marshall TJ. Lipofibromatous hamartoma of the upper extremity: a review of the radiologic findings for 15 Patients. AJR 2006; 186(3): 805-811.
- 17. Ozdemir O, Ozsoy MH, Kurt C, Coskunol E, Calli I. Schwannomas of the hand and wrist: long-term results and review of the literature. J Orhop Surg 2005; 13(3): 267-272
- Conway WF, Destouet JM, Gilula LA, Bellinghausen HW, Weeks PM. The carpal boss: an overview of radiographic evaluation. Radiology 1985; 156(1): 29–31.
- **19**. Murray PM, Berger RA, Inwards CY. Primary neoplasms of the carpal bones. J Hand Surg [Am]. 1999; 24(5): 1008-1013.
- 20. Bauer RD, Lewis MM, Posner MA. Treatment of enchondromas of the hand with allograft bone. J Hand Surg [Am]. 1988;13(6):908-16
- 21. Marcuzzi A, Acciaro AL, Landi A. Osteoid osteoma of hand and wrist. J Hand Surg [Br]. 2002; 27(5): 440-443.
- 22. Ogura T, Inoue H, Tanabe G, Anatomic and clinical studies of the extensor digitorum brevis manus. J Hand Surg 1987;12A:100-107.
- 23. Patel MR, Desai SS, Bassini-Lipson L, Namba T, Sahoo J. Painful extensor digitorum brevis manus muscle. J Hand Surg. [Am] 1989;14:674–678.