



A Case Study of Radial Nerve Injury after Segmental Humeral Fracture, Followed by Primary Intramedullary Nailing

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Clinical Image

Radial nerve injury is one of the most common mononeuropathies of the upper limb, especially as a result of traumatic injuries or fractures, surgical interventions, or compression effect.

We present the radiological images of a case study of a 78 years old female patient, who sustained a 2 parts segmental humeral fracture, followed by primary intramedullary nailing. Post operatively (9th day post-operation), electrodiagnostic studies determined an axonal type of radial nerve injury, included motor nerve conduction study to the extensor indicis proprius, sensory nerve conduction study of the superficial branch of the radial nerve, and needle EMG of radial-innervated muscles and non-radial muscles supplied by the C7 nerve root.

There are two main anatomic areas where the radial nerve is vulnerable. The first region is the distal third of the humeral bone where the nerve lies directly lateral to the bone and the second area is approximately 6 cm centered around the midshaft of the humerus where deltoid tuberosity is situated.

The main rehabilitation goal of radial neuropathies is to improve hand function for the completion of daily activities.

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Figure: