

Ulnar Nerve Transposition

Patient information for Mr Whitaker's patients

What is it?

The nerve at the level of the elbow is moved from its source of irritation around the elbow to the front of the elbow into the soft tissues.

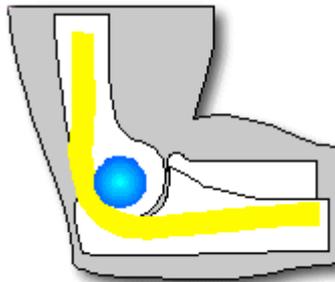
Why do I need it to be done?

You will have symptoms of numbness and/or pins and needles affecting the little and ring finger of your hand known as ulnar neuritis (cubital tunnel syndrome). There may also be some muscle wastage of the hand. The problem can also cause bending of the ring and little finger (clawing) which you cannot control.

The diagnosis is usually confirmed with specialist tests known as nerve conduction studies.

If pressure remains on the nerve it will continue to affect the nerve and your hand could become permanently affected.

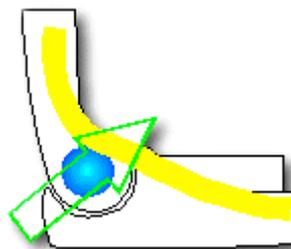
Normal position of the nerve around the elbow



What is done at the operation?

Following a cut in the skin, at level of the elbow on the inside of the arm, the surgeon finds the nerve and moves it from where it normally sits around the back of the elbow, to in front of the elbow and into the soft tissues.

New position of the nerve



Changing the position of the nerve stops it from being irritated from continually being stretched when you bend (flex) the elbow.

How will my wound be dressed after the operation?

An absorbable stitch will be used to close the wound, this runs under the surface of the skin and will have an end, at each end of the cut sticking through the skin.

These ends will be cut off at 10 -14 days after the operation.

Over the wound you will have an adhesive dressing to cover the stitch, on top of this will be placed a bulky bandage of cotton wool and a crepe bandage.

The dressing should remain untouched for several days after surgery. You should be advised regarding your dressing by the ward staff before leaving the ward.

What risks are there?

Wound infection

Excessive Bleeding and swelling

Haematoma

Nerve injury

Incomplete recovery of the symptoms

Every care is taken to prevent these risks by the staff and the advice you will be given is important to follow, as this also helps reduce some of these risks.

What appointments will I need?

You will be seen for a wound check and stitch removal 10-14 days post operatively.

Thereafter at 6 weeks to check how your symptoms are settling. Any further appointment will be decided at this stage.

It can, in some cases take between 6 and 12 months before you will know the end result from the surgery.

Depending on the severity of the symptoms prior to surgery you may not get a full recovery. When the symptoms are very severe the operation is offered to you to prevent the symptoms from getting worse. The degree of recovery of symptoms will be variable.

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Acknowledgment E- Hand .com