

Excision of the scaphoid bone

A case report with 7-year follow-up

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A 20-year-old man presented with pain in the left wrist with marked dysfunction. 2 months earlier he had sustained a motorcycle accident and was first treated elsewhere. Radiographic examination revealed palmar dislocation of the scaphoid (Figure 1). Open reduction was attempted under general anesthesia and a tourniquet was used during the procedure. The reduction failed, the scaphoid was excised, and the wrist immobilized in a functional position for 3 weeks.

7 years later the result was satisfactory. There were no degenerative changes on radiographic examination. Clinically the wrist was moderately stiff but painfree. The patient was satisfied and had returned to his previous occupation as a waiter.

Discussion

The role of the scaphoid is to connect the 2 rows of the carpal bone; the very strong scaphoid-capitate and scaphoid-lunate ligaments explain why the scaphoid bone very rarely dislocates (Gordon 1972). In early cases open reduction and ligament reconstruction is preferred. In late cases many authors suggest open reduction (Howard and Dell 1986), but in our case we proceeded straight to open resection of the scaphoid. Most authors recommend that the resection of a carpal bone should be followed by reinforcement with synovial or

tendon grafts. Nahigian et al. (1970) used a synovial flap after resection of the lunate. Others used synovial and tendon autografts, and Ishiguro (1984) used autografts from the palmaris longus, plantaris longus or the flexor carpal ulnaris (Alexander and Lichtman 1986).

Some authors suggest resection of the whole proximal row, especially when arthrotic changes are present, with partial arthrodesis of the wrist (Inglis and Jones 1977, Neviaser 1986).

References

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Figure 1. A 20-year-old man with dislocation of the scaphoid after a motorcycle accident.



Isolated palmar dislocation of the scaphoid.

7 years after resection of the scaphoid. Arthrosis is not seen although the anatomical and functional relations of the carpal bones has altered.