Congenital clasped thumb

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Abstract

Congenital clasped thumb is characterized by a thumb that is strongly fixed at the metacarpophalangeal joint and adducted into the palm. Zadeck (1934) reported the first case of the anomaly. Classification: The first classification system was designed by Weckesser et al. (1968) and in 1985, Tsuyuguchi et al. classified congenital clasped thumb into three types. Diagnosis: It is diagnosed if the clasping persists and normal independent action of the thumb does not develop by the age of 3 to 4 months. It may be associated with multiple congenital deformities. Treatment: Conservative treatment is recommended first in a young infant. Surgical treatment is considered if there is no response to splinting after at least 6 months and if there's obvious webbing between the thumb and index finger. Material and methods: We treated 40 patients with 73 hands. The results of treatment are satisfactory. Conclusion: Congenital clasped thumb is associated with multiple congenital syndromes and further evaluation of these syndromes is recommended. The condition should be classified into supple and complex types. The conservative treatment is very successful in supple type and surgical treatment is needed in complex type. Widening of the 1st web space is important for restoration of the normal extension and abduction of the thumb.

Keywords
clasped thumb, thumb in palm deformity, windblown deformity, web space contracture, hypoplastic extensor tendons of the thumb,