

Ulnar neuritis caused by a severe inflammatory reaction after a insect bite in the wrist area

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INTRODUCTION

Ulnar neuritis is a condition marked by weakness and numbness in the hand that results from inflammation of the ulnar nerve. Ulnar neuritis may arise from fluid accumulation at the elbow. Ulnar neuritis is associated with several symptoms, including pain in the elbow, forearm, and hand, as well as weakness and numbness in the affected area. If left untreated for more than 6 weeks, irreversible muscular atrophy of the hand can occur. In this report, we would like to introduce the case of ulnar neuritis at the wrist after a mosquito bite.

CASE

- An 39-year-old woman was presented with numbness and weakness in her left hand on the ulnar side of her wrist, after being bitten by a mosquito (AUG 2022).
- The numbness in her left fourth and fifth fingers became more severe, and the day before her visit, she felt a decreased sensation in her left hand and forearm.
- She had to exert a lot of force to extend her fingers, especially her fourth finger
- She also experienced tremor when she tried to extend all her fingers.
- Past medical history of severe allergic reactions to mosquito bites.

Physical examination & Laboratory findings

- Edema and a bite mark on the left ulnar side of wrist.
- Left fifth finger showed decreased abduction compared to the right finger.
- Normal level of C-reactive protein.

Ultrasound (Figure 1)

- Edema along the course of the ulnar nerve.

Electromyography (Figure 2)

- Findings of the upper extremities were remarkable.
- Abnormal onset latency differences at both ulnar motor inching test.

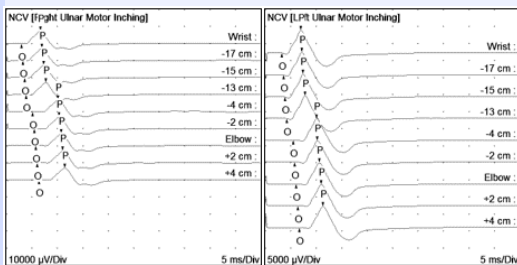


Figure 2. Ulnar motor inching test at both hand. Abnormal onset latency difference was observed at both ulnar motor nerve.



Figure 1. Picture of a mosquito bite on the ulnar nerve at the wrist.

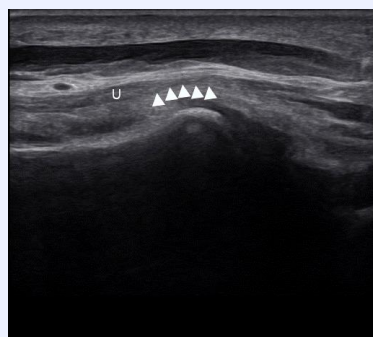


Figure 3. Longitudinal view of ulnar nerve. The arrowhead shows compressed ulnar nerve. U : ulnar nerve.

Course

- Oral corticosteroids were prescribed.
- Symptoms improved after taking medication for 10 days.

CONCLUSION

This case illustrates a patient with ulnar neuropathy caused by a mosquito bite whose symptom improved after taking corticosteroids. In conclusion, If a patient experiences neuropathic symptoms after a mosquito bite, it is important not to overlook and to administer steroids to reduce inflammation and alleviate symptoms.