Three Cases of Ulnar Hypoplasia
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Case Presentation

Three patients presented with wrist pain. The onset was non-traumatic. No observable deformity or examination findings provided a conclusive diagnosis.

Digital x-ray examination with radiometric analysis were used to determine the axial relationships of the wrist joints as compared to normative values.

The analysis yielded an impression of suspected (CFU) congenital foreshortening of the ulna with resultant decreased wrist angles.

Results

CFU is suspected to be a contributing factor in these cases. CFU is associated with a predisposition to triangular fibrocartilage complex injury and may lead to pain and degenerative changes. This could have significant consequences on those in professions which induce high forces to the wrist, in particular chiropractors whose primary activities include hand adjusting techniques.

Discussion

Forces are transmitted from the hand through the carpals while a high degree of sophisticated movement is demanded. Altered biomechanics due to ulnar hypoplasia may lead to chronic pain and disability. More research is needed. Screening for CFU may be useful for those in the chiropractic profession.

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Each one is different!

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