

Ulnar Nerve Decompression at the Elbow

Facility:

(Affix patient identification label here)

URN:

Family Name:

Given Names:

Address:

Date of Birth:

Sex: M F

A. INTERPRETER / CULTURAL NEEDS

- An Interpreter Service is required? Yes No
 If Yes, is a qualified Interpreter present? Yes No
 A Cultural Support Person is required? Yes No
 If Yes, is a Cultural Support Person present? Yes No

B. CONDITION AND TREATMENT

The doctor has explained that you have the following condition: *(Doctor to document in patient's own words)*

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.....

This condition requires the following procedure. *(Doctor to document - include site and/or side where relevant to the procedure)*

.....

.....

The following will be performed:

The Ulnar nerve is a nerve which supplies feeling and strength to a portion of the hand and forearm. It may become compressed or trapped as it passes past the elbow. Ulnar nerve decompression at the elbow is performed to free up the nerve. It involves a small cut around the elbow, to free up the compressed nerve.

C. RISKS OF A ULNAR NERVE DECOMPRESSION AT THE ELBOW

There are some risks/complications with this procedure/treatment/investigation.

Common risks include;

- Infection. This will need antibiotics.
- Bleeding. Bleeding is more common if you have been taking blood thinning drugs such as Warfarin, Aspirin, Clopidogrel (Plavix or Iscover) or Dipyridamole (Persantin or Asasantin).
- Failure of the symptoms to improve.

Uncommon risks include;

- Injury to the ulnar nerve resulting in a weak/numb hand.
- Persistent numbness in the hand/forearm which may be temporary or permanent.
- Damage to the median nerve. This may need re-operation and nerve repair.
- Damage to the tendons. This may require repair of the tendons.
- Scar tenderness. This may be permanent.

- A heart attack because of the stain on the heart or a stroke.
- Clots in the leg (deep vein thrombosis or DVT) with pain and swelling. Rarely part of this clot may break off and go into the lungs.
- Small areas of the lung may collapse, increasing the risk of chest infection. This may need antibiotics and physiotherapy.
- Increase risk in obese people of wound infection, chest infection, heart and lung complications, and thrombosis.

Rare risks include;

- Death as a result of this procedure is very rare

D. SIGNIFICANT RISKS AND PROCEDURE OPTIONS

(Doctor to document in space provided. Continue in Medical Record if necessary.)

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.....

E. RISKS OF NOT HAVING THIS PROCEDURE

(Doctor to document in space provided. Continue in Medical Record if necessary.)

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F. ANAESTHETIC

This procedure may require an anaesthetic. *(Doctor to document type of anaesthetic required)*

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G. PATIENT CONSENT

I acknowledge that the doctor has explained;

- my medical condition and the proposed procedure/treatment/investigations, including additional treatment if the doctor finds something unexpected. I understand the risks, including the risks that are specific to me.
- the anaesthetic required for this procedure/treatment. I understand the risks, including the risks that are specific to me.
- other relevant procedure/treatment options and their associated risks.
- my prognosis and the risks of not having the procedure/treatment.
- that no guarantee has been made that the procedure/treatment will improve my condition even though it has been carried out with due professional care.
- the procedure may include a blood transfusion.
- tissues and blood may be removed and could be used for diagnosis or management of my condition, stored and disposed of sensitively by the hospital.
- if immediate life-threatening events happen during the procedure, they will be treated accordingly.
- a doctor other than the Specialist Neurosurgeon may conduct the procedure. I understand this could be a doctor undergoing further training.

I have been given the following Patient Information Sheets;

- ◆ **About your Anaesthetic**
- ◆ **Ulnar Nerve Decompression at the Elbow**
- I was able to ask questions and raise concerns with the doctor about my condition, the proposed procedure/treatment/ investigations and its risks, and my treatment options. My questions and concerns have been discussed and answered to my satisfaction.
- I understand I have the right to change my mind at any time before the procedure/ treatment/investigation, including after I have signed this form but, preferably following a discussion with my doctor.

On the basis of the above statements,

I REQUEST TO HAVE THE PROCEDURE

Name of Patient/
Substitute decision
maker and relationship:

Signature:

Date:

Substitute Decision-Maker: Under the *Powers of Attorney Act 1998 and/or the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000*. If the patient is an adult and unable to give consent, an authorised decision-maker must give consent on the patient's behalf.

H. DOCTOR'S STATEMENT

I have explained to the patient all the above points under the Patient Consent section (G) and I am of the opinion that the patient/substitute decision-maker has understood the information.

Name of
Doctor:

Designation:

Signature:

Date:

Name of
Anaesthetist:

Designation:

Signature:

Date:

I. INTERPRETER'S STATEMENT

I have given a sight translation in

.....
(state the patient's language here) of the consent form and assisted in the provision of any verbal and written information given to the patient/parent or guardian/substitute decision-maker by the doctor.

Name of
Interpreter:

Signature:

Date: