

A LOGICAL APPROACH TO THE PIP JOINT IN DUPUYTREN'S

This presentation presents a logical approach to correction of PIP joint contractures in Dupuytren's contracture. It is based on an analysis of 78 patients with PIP joint contractures. Once a contracture has reached 60° there is an 80% chance that the central slip will have become attenuated. Central slip attenuation requires a different post operative splintage regime. Digital fasciectomy may be affected in releasing PIP contracture. On the other hand, after fasciectomy there may be residual contracture which requires release of flexor tendon sheath or the palmar plate. Complete correction may be achieved but may leave an unstable finger which moves into extension or flexion but is unstable in the middle range due to tightness of the accessory collateral ligaments. The value of gentle passive manipulation versus surgical release of the PIP joint will be discussed.