Treatment of Rotator cuff Tear

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Clinical presentation

- Pain
- Weakness
- Reduced ROM
- Rotator cuff arthropathy



Inman's concept of "Force couples"



Inman VT, Saunders JBdM, Abbott LC. Observations on the Function of the Shoulder Joint. J Bone Joint Surg Am 1944;26:3.

- Physical exam
- ► X-ray
- Sonography
- Arthrography
- MRI







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Do all cuff tears need treatment?

- The presence of a rotator cuff tear is not necessarily an indication for surgery
- MRI and cadaver studies have shown asymptomatic patients to have cuff tears

Evaluation of a patient with RC tear

- general health status & comorbidities
- current & desired functional level
- chronicity of the tear
- size of tear
- history of a traumatic event
- previous treatments

Aim of Nonoperative treatment

help a patient with symptomatic rotator cuff disease become asymptomatic

Success of nonoperative treatment?

- successful in 33% to 92% of cases
- pain as primary reason for functional weakness
- Idocaine injection to subacromial space
 - \rightarrow Patient able to elevate their arm to shoulder height

Patients with longstanding pain (> 6 months) did not respond well to nonoperative therapy

Who is suitable for nonoperative teratment?

- chronic rotator cuff tear
- Tear limited to one tendon
- Non- traumatic
- Age > 60 y
- Iess active , low demanding patients

Nonoperative treatment

- NSAID
- Heat application
- Modification of activities
- Exercises
 - Elimination of subtle stiffness (stretching of post. cap)
 - Strengthening of RC and parascapular muscles

Elimination of subtle stiffness

Strengthening of RC & parascapular muscles

Figure 15-88

(B)

Subacromial injection

- After 4–6 wk
- Can be repeated after 2–3 month
- Not more than 2 injection in a year

How long nonoperative treatment continue?

■ 4 to 6 months

• No answer \rightarrow MRI, consider surgical options

When weakness is prominent or progressive, this process is accelerated

If tear size seems inconsistent with physical findings, other causes of weakness, especially a nerve injury, should be considered

(Bassett RW, Coffee BH, Acute tears of the rotator cuff. The timing of surgical repairs. *Clin Or/hop 1983; 175: 18-24.*)

How long nonoperative treatment continue?

■ 4 to 6 months

- No answer \rightarrow MRI, consider surgical options
- In a younger and active patient, an acute fullthickness tear is an indication for early surgery without any trial of nonoperative treatment
- In these patients repair within the first 3 weeks resulted in the best surgical outcome

Indications for surgical treatment

- Pain (principal indication)
- Lack of mobility
- Diminished strength

Indications for surgical treatment

- Results depend on :
 - tear size
 - retraction
 - tissue quality
 - preoperative mobility
 - patient's overall health

Patients should understand their role in the postoperative rehabilitation and the length of time required for recovery

- Open repair
- Muscle transfer
 - Subscapularis
 - Latissimus dorsi
- Arthroscopic

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Arthroscopic

Why Arthroscopic treatment ?

- assessment of both articular and bursal surfaces of RC
- increases the surgeon's "window of visualization
- minimal disruption to the overlying deltoid

- Position
- Portals
- appropriate set up and equipments

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- Diagnostic arthroscopy (GH & Subacromial)
- Assess tendon mobility & understand tear
- Rigid fixation to bone
- Acromioplasty

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Crescent-shaped

Massive, contracted, immobile tears

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crescent-shaped rotator cuff tear

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U-shaped rotator cuff tear

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L & reverse L -shaped rotator cuff tear

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Single row or Double row ?

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- Acromioplasty

Summarry

Arthroscopic repair of RC tears

- results comparable to open repair
- The advantages :
 - better visualization of RC
 - Decreased deltoid morbidity
 - shorter hospital stay

Summary

Success in arthroscopic RC treatment depends on :

- Good visualization
- Good equipments
- knowing the pattern of tear
- The skill and experience of the surgeon

The result of bad arthroscopic RC tear is inferior to open repair

Thank you for attention