# Occupational Therapy Orthosis Course





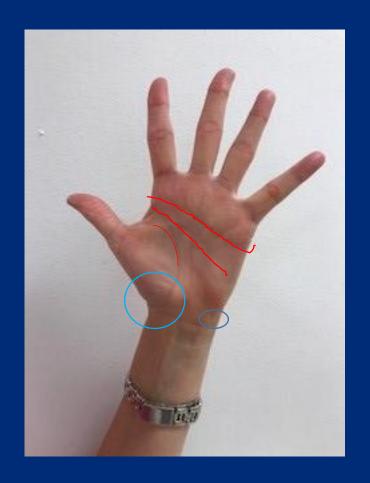
## Distal UE anatomy review

- Surface anatomy, landmarks and boney prominences
- UE Peripheral nerve pathways and gross assessment
- Wound healing phases & primary concerns
- Risks, precautions and alarms
- Disease process and hierarchy of healing
  - Complicated cases require critical thinking and problem solving
  - Prioritize and clarify with MD



# Surface anatomy, landmarks and boney prominences





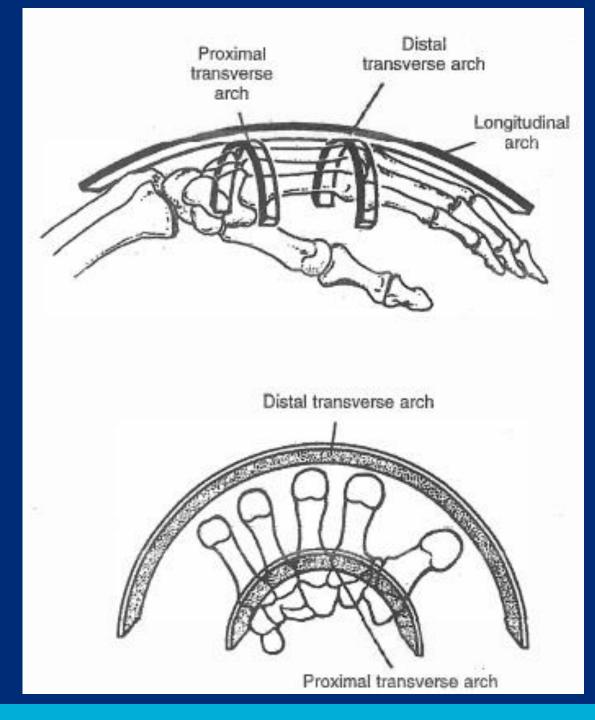


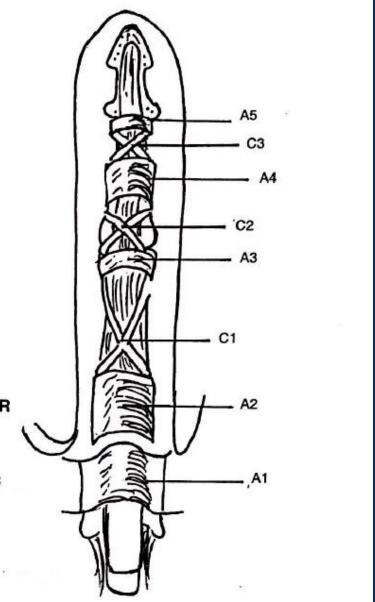
# Resting Posture of the Hand





### Arches of the Hand

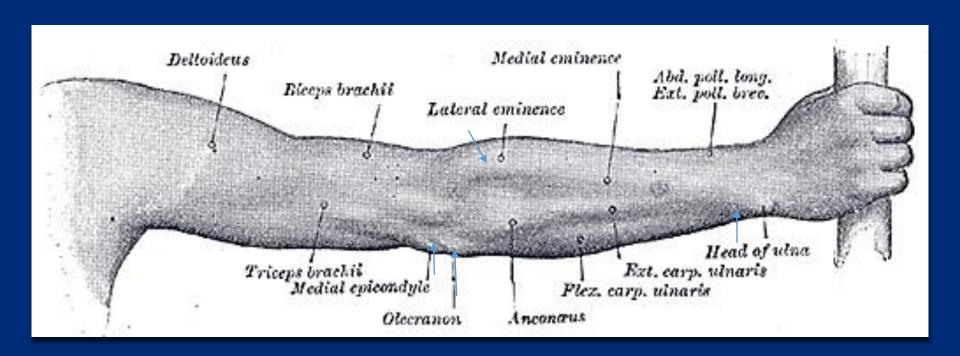




#### **PULLEY SYSTEM OF THE FINGER**

A1-A5 = annular pulleys C1-C3 = cruciate (criss cross) pulleys

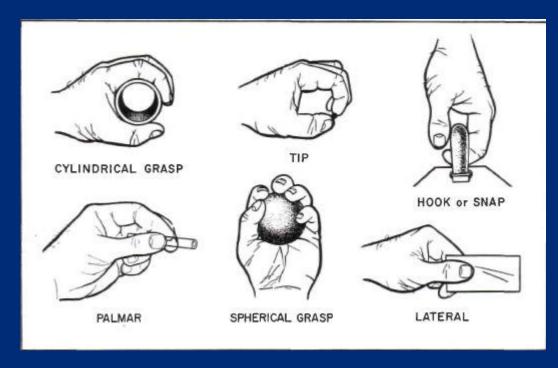






### Functional Patterns of the Hand

- Prehensile Patterns
  - 2 point / Tip to Tip
  - 3 point / Palmar Pinch
  - Lateral / Key Pinch
- Grasp Patterns
  - Cylindrical
  - Spherical
  - Hook Grasp
  - Power Grasp



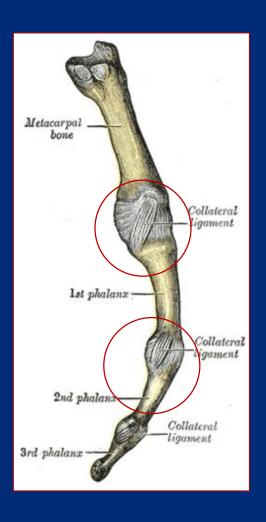








## Ligamentous Integrity



- MP joints 60\* or more flexion to maintain length of collateral ligaments
- PIP and DIP in full extension to prevent joint contractures and avoid volar plate shortening
- Intrinsic Plus position

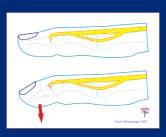


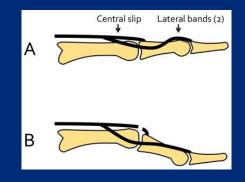


# Common Acquired Deformities of the Hand

- Mallet Finger
- Boutionniere
- Swan neck
- Claw Hand
- Dupuytren's contracture
- Rheumatoid Arthritis





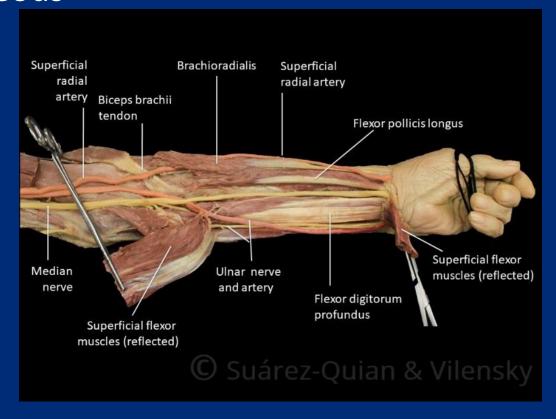






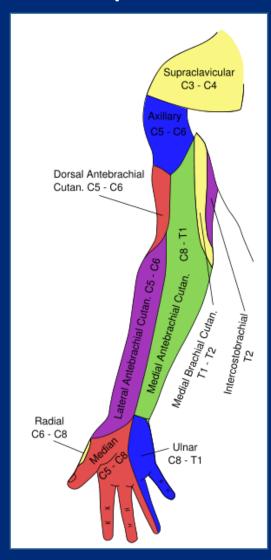
# UE Peripheral Nerves: Pathways and gross assessment

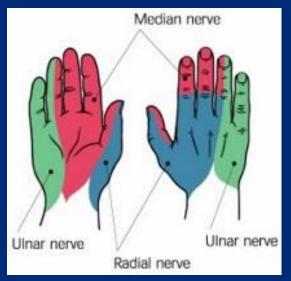
- Musculocutaneous
- Radial Nerve
- Median Nerve
- Ulnar Nerve

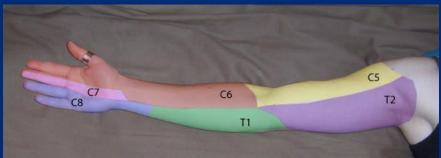




# Peripheral or Not?





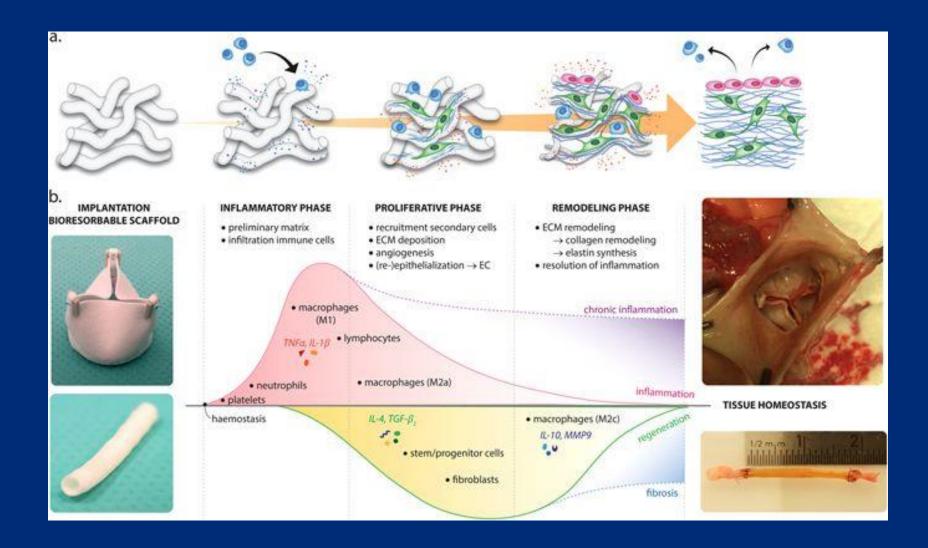




# Wound Healing Phases & primary concerns

- Primary or secondary closure
- Clean or contaminated wound
- Crush
- Vascular integrity





# Phases of Healing

- Inflammatory Phase
  - Open wound with edema
- Fibroplastic Phase / Proliferative Phase
- Scar Maturation phase
- Both fibroplastic phase and maturation phase offer opportunity for scar management
  - Otoform / silicone gel sheet
  - Kinesiotape / dynamic tape
- Scar tissue at dorsum of hand, web spaces or joint creases prone to contractures -> leads to loss ROM



### Risks, Precautions and Alarms

- Vascular considerations
  - Capillary refill, warm/cold, etc.
  - Consider geriatric skin and long term steroid use burns and bruises easily
  - Diabetes and scleroderma may have diminished sensation
  - Replant patients closely monitor and avoid elevation
- Edema
  - Prevention and treatment minimizes scar formation
  - Dorsum of the hand loosely attached and fibrous



### Compartment Syndrome

- Increased pressure from the injury results in insufficient blood supply in that compartment
- Symptoms:
  - severe pain, numbness
  - Poor pulses and pale color
- Decreased or difficulty with AROM
- Surgery must be in a timely manner (usually <6 hours from onset) to avoid permanent nerve, muscle or vascular damage
- Untreated -> leads to Volkmans Contracture
  - Permanent flexed contracture of the hand and wrist in claw-like deformity with painful and restricted passive extension



### Patient Education

- Elevation
- Skin Integrity
- Optimal Orthosis positioning aids to maintain and increase ROM
- Protection of repaired structures
- Minimize complications of wound healing
- Active ROM and tendon gliding as one heals to minimize adhesions
  - when appropriate per condition and diagnosis











# Pre-fabricated <u>OR</u> Custom Orthosis

- If prefab meets your treatment goal go with it
- Options for:
  - Wrist cock up
  - Thumb spica
  - Resting hand orthosis
    - Neuro
    - Intrinsic (+) resting hand -> custom
- Call a friend? Hand therapists just a phone call away







### Pre-Cuts

- May save time and be more efficient for you and your patient
- Cost effective
- Fabricate it as you would a custom orthosis





## Documentation and billing

- Use correct L code (EO, EWO, WHFO, WHO, HFO, FO custom or prefab)
- OTR/COTA considerations for billing
- Clarify patient education and wearing schedule
  - provide signage for nursing, caregivers





### Acute Care

- Initiate ROM program
  - AROM when possible MOTION is LOTION (include photos)
    - Tenodesis
    - Tendon gliding for long flexors
    - Intrinsic exercises
  - PROM if necessary to reduce risk of contracture
  - Look proximal and look distal to injury
  - Monitor skin and vascular function to prevent complications
- Discharge recommendations
  - OT out-patient hand rehab
  - Home Health or Inpatient rehab
  - Wound care or wound clinic



### References

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Thank You

