

## Peripheral Neuropathy Questions

(WARNING: These won't make any sense without the handout on peripheral neuropathies)

1. You have just opened your new sports medicine clinic at Boulder, Colorado. The lead server for the US volleyball team comes in to see you with a complaint of difficulty controlling his serve (*No topspin, doc.*) and perceived weakness. You notice a decrease in strength on external rotation of his serving shoulder. What common nerve injury does he have?
2. Dr. Smith comes in to see you in follow-up for the spiral fracture of the distal tibia that she suffered on her Colorado ski trip a month ago. She has had inordinate pain when placing the foot on the floor despite the multiple screws placed to stabilize the fracture. She weight bears very little and pivots on her crutches when she walks resting all of her weight on her crutches as she swings that leg forward. She has been enduring bilateral shoulder pain as a result but hasn't complained because, as we know, every pain is relative. You notice right deltoid atrophy and that she can barely lift her arm to her head. What common nerve injury does she have?
3. Dr. Smith is fortunate to recover fully from her orthopedic injuries and their side-effects with your help. Two years later she falls deeply in love with an Air Force pilot from Cheyenne Mountain AFB and they are married. After a raucous and well liquored wedding reception, she brings in her husband at midday the next day with an extremely frightening inability to extend his left wrist and his fingers. What common nerve injury does he have?
4. Dr. Smith's brother, Itzhak Smith, the great violinist has been seeing a "lesser" doctor and he cannot get rid of his tennis elbow no matter how he treats it and he comes to you to render your expert treatment. What less common tunnel entrapment syndrome can present with these symptoms?
5. Billy Bob Smith, the renowned diesel mechanic that "doesn't need any power tools," comes in to see you because of your genius at diagnosing them nerve problems. He has been having prolonged problems with maneuvering his tools because of extensor weakness of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> right hand digits. His wrist also "only pulls up good on the thumb side." What somewhat common nerve injury does he have?

6. Grandma Smith comes in to see you and is having a rather sudden onset of hand symptoms, first on the right side and then a week and a half later, on the left. She wanted to call it an arthritis flair since she has known spondyloarthritis, but it is more of a weakness. She feels clumsy handling objects and barely can wipe her own rear secondary to difficulties holding the tissue. She loves to knit but easy hand “exhaustion” now limits her ability to accomplish much. What common nerve injury does she have?

7. Dr. Smith’s husband, proud to have the motor function back in his left hand for several years, comes in with a complaint that while diligent practice at the tennis court has improved his winning percentage, he is beginning to lose the grip in his right hand and when he does his patented spin serve, his hurts when he puts the final twist on with his forearm. In particular, the more he serves, the more is hurts to grip with his third and fourth fingers. What common nerve syndrome does he have?

8. Dr. Smith has great news – she is pregnant! Only 3 more months to go and she will get her first check-up next week! But she has a complaint that is driving her crazy – she is being awakened during the night with bilateral hand pain and numbness. She shakes her hand when she shows you how it feels. She notes weakness only of the LOAF muscles. What common nerve syndrome does he have?

Answers:

1. **Suprascapular mononeuropathy**
2. **Axillary mononeuropathy**
3. **Radial mononeuropathy**
4. **Radial tunnel syndrome**
5. **Posterior interosseous nerve syndrome**
6. **Ulnar mononeuropathy**
7. **Pronator syndrome**
8. **Carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS)**