

# Congenital Hands

Stewart Watson, Manchester

# Sue Kennedy



- Occupational therapist
- Children's Hand therapist
- innovator
- teacher
- co founder of the South Manchester Hand Therapy Clinics

Classification is of very little value  
it doesn't dictate the treatment  
it doesn't tell you the aetiology  
(Wassel an exception)

Describe what you see in each patient

Identify known syndromes

Predict the growth pattern and prognosis

Consider the child as a whole

Discuss at length with the parents

Make your treatment plan with the input of your team  
integrating with the child's other medical and  
developmental needs

**I. FAILURE OF FORMATION****A. TRANSVERSE ARREST****1. Shoulder**

- a. Shoulder level (omoloid)
- b. Clavicle

**2. Upper arm**

- a. Upper arm level
  - (1) Long above elbow
  - (2) Short above elbow

**3. Elbow**

- a. Elbow level

**4. Forearm**

- a. Forearm level
  - (1) Long below elbow
  - (2) Short below elbow

**5. Wrist**

- a. Wrist level (achond)

**6. Carpal**

- a. Carpal level (no metacarpals present)
  - (1) Proximal carpal row
  - (2) Distal carpal row

**7. Metacarpal**

- a. Metacarpal level (adactyl)

**8. Phalanx**

- a. Prolonged level
  - (1) Proximal level
  - (2) Middle level
  - (3) Distal level

**B. LONGITUDINAL ARREST****1. Radial ray (preaxial)****a. Radial ray deficiency**

- (1) Normal radius
  - (a) Thumb hypoplastic - functional
  - (b) Thumb hypoplastic - nonfunctional
  - (c) Thumb absent
- (2) Hypoplasia of radius (complete but small)
  - (a) Thumb hypoplastic - functional
  - (b) Thumb hypoplastic - nonfunctional
  - (c) Thumb absent
  - (d) Madigan's deformity
  - (e) Other
- (3) Partial absence of radius (distal end absent)
  - (a) Thumb hypoplastic - functional
  - (b) Thumb hypoplastic - nonfunctional
  - (c) Thumb absent
- (4) Complete absence of radius
  - (a) Thumb hypoplastic - functional
  - (b) Thumb hypoplastic - nonfunctional
  - (c) Thumb absent
- (5) Absent/hypoplastic flexor muscles
- (6) Absent/hypoplastic extensor muscles
- (7) Absent/hypoplastic flexor muscles

**2. Ulnar ray (postaxial)****a. Ulnar ray deficiency**

- (1) Normal ulna
  - (a) Metacarpals, digits hypoplastic
  - (b) Metacarpals hypoplastic, digits absent
  - (c) Metacarpals, digits absent
- (2) Hypoplasia of ulna (complete but small)
  - (a) Metacarpals, digits hypoplastic
  - (b) Metacarpals hypoplastic, digits absent
  - (c) Metacarpals, digits absent
- (3) Partial absence of ulna (distal end absent)
  - (a) Metacarpals, digits hypoplastic
  - (b) Metacarpals hypoplastic, digits absent
  - (c) Metacarpals, digits absent
- (4) Complete absence of ulna
  - (a) Metacarpals, digits hypoplastic
  - (b) Metacarpals hypoplastic, digits absent
  - (c) Metacarpals, digits absent
- (5) Defect of ulna with humeroradial synostosis
- (6) Absent/hypoplastic hyperflexor muscles
- (7) Absent/hypoplastic extensor muscles
- (8) Absent/hypoplastic flexor muscles

**3. Central ray (cleft hand)****a. Central ray deficiency**

- (1) Typical type (deficiency type)
  - (a) Phalangitis, digits hypoplastic
  - (b) Metacarpal hypoplastic, digits absent
  - (c) Metacarpals, digits absent
- (2) Atypical type
  - (a) Syndactylism type
  - (b) Polydactylism type
  - (c) Phalangitis
  - (d) Other

**4. Intersegmental (intercalated) type of longitudinal arrest****a. Phalangitis**

- (1) Proximal type (hand - to - forearm - to - trunk)
- (2) Distal type (hand - to - arm - to - trunk)
- (3) Total type (hand - to - trunk)

**b. Other****II. FAILURE OF DIFFERENTIATION (SEPARATION) OF PARTS****A. SOFT TISSUE INVOLVEMENT****1. Disseminated**

- a. Arthrogryposis (including multiple congenital)
  - (1) Severe
  - (2) Moderate
  - (3) Mild

**2. Shoulder**

- a. Unstable shoulder
  - (1) Serrege's shoulder
- b. Absence of dense muscles (including Pseudo's syndrome)
  - (1) Pseudo's rapier
  - (2) Pseudo's major and minor
  - (3) Other

**3. Elbow and forearm**

- a. Aberrant muscle
  - (1) Aberrant muscles of long extrinsic flexors
  - (2) Aberrant muscles of long extrinsic extensors
  - (3) Aberrant tendons of the hand
  - (4) Other

**4. Wrist and hand**

- a. Cutaneous syndactyly (complete and incomplete)
  - (1) Radial (1st interdigital space)
  - (2) Central (2nd/3rd interdigital space)
  - (3) Ulnar (3rd interdigital space)
  - (4) Combination of (1) & (2) or (3)
- b. Congenital flexion contracture (camptodactyly)
  - (1) 5th digit
  - (2) Other
- c. Thumb-in-palm deformity
- d. Deviated finger without bony deformity (flexy secondary to differentiation of muscle ligament or capsule)
  - (1) Radial/ulnar
    - (a) Isolated digit
    - (b) Congenital ulnar wrist (including "bamboo joint")
  - (2) Other
- e. Congenital trigger digit or thumb
- f. Other

**5. Skin and appendages**

- a. Pterygium (webbing) of nail or elbow
- b. Cutaneous cysts
- c. Congenital clubbing of nails
- d. Nail nail deformity, volar nail
- e. Other

**B. SKELETAL INVOLVEMENT****1. Shoulder**

- a. Congenital luxation variety
- b. Other



## 2. Elbow

- a. Elbow synostosis
  - (1) Humeroradial
  - (2) Humeroulnar
  - (3) Total elbow
- b. Elbow ankylosis (joint segmentation present)

## 3. Forearm

- a. Proximal radioulnar synostosis
  - (1) With proximal head dislocation
  - (2) With radial head dislocation
- b. Distal radioulnar synostosis

## 4. Wrist and hand

- a. Synostosis of carpal bones
  - (1) Lunate-trapezium synostosis
  - (2) Capitate-hamate synostosis
  - (3) Scaphoid-lunate synostosis
  - (4) Others
- b. Synostosis of metacarpal bones
  - (1) Ring-small synostosis
  - (2) Others
- c. Synostosis of phalanges (axial synostosis, complex synostosis)
  - (1) Radial (1st - 2nd met)
  - (2) Central (2nd - 3rd, 3rd - 4th met)
  - (3) Ulnar (4th - 5th met)
  - (4) Proximal hand (including Apert's hand)
  - (5) Other
- d. Symphalangia
  - (1) Proximal interphalangeal joint
  - (2) Other
- e. Congenital deviation (clinodactyly)
  - (1) Hypoplastic clinodactyly
    - (a) Fifth finger (including delta phalanx)
    - (b) Thumb (including delta phalanx)
    - (c) Others
  - (2) Hypertrophic clinodactyly
- f. Hypermotility
  - (1) Triphalangeal thumb
  - (2) Others

## C. CONGENITAL TUMOROUS CONDITIONS

### 1. Vascular system

- a. Hemangioma
- b. Malformations
  - (1) Capillary
    - (a) Port wine stain
    - (b) Others
  - (2) Venous
  - (3) Lymphatic
  - (4) Arterial (including Air fissure)
  - (5) Lymphatic
  - (6) Others

### 2. Neurologic

- a. Neurofibromatosis
- b. Neuroblastoma
- c. Others

### 3. Connective tissue

- a. Juvenile (aponeurotic) fibrosis
- b. Other

### 4. Skeletal (not including overgrowth syndromes)

- a. Osteochondromatosis (including multiple hereditary exostosis)
- b. Ectochondromatosis
- c. Fibrous dysplasia
- d. Epiphyseal abnormalities
- e. Other

## III. DUPLICATION\*

- 1. Whole limb
- 2. Humerus
- 3. Radius
- 4. Ulna

- a. Mirror hand
- b. Other

## 5. Digit

- a. Polydactyly
  - (1) Radial (proximal, 1st ray including triphalangeal thumb)
  - (2) Central
  - (3) Ulnar (proximal, 5th ray)
  - (4) Conduction

## 6. Epiphyseal (extra)

- a. 1st ray
- b. 2nd ray
- c. Other

## IV. OVERGROWTH\*

### 1. Whole limb

- a. Hemihypertrophy
- b. Associated with vascular condition
- c. Other

### 2. Partial limb

- a. With associated vascular condition
- b. Other

### 3. Digit

- a. Macrodactyly
  - (1) With associated vascular condition
  - (2) With neurofibromatosis
  - (3) With bone or cartilage overgrowth
  - (4) Other

## V. UNDERGROWTH\*

### 1. Whole limb

### 2. Forearm and hand

### 3. Hand alone

- a. Entire
- b. Partial

### 4. Metacarpal

- a. Brachymetacarpal
  - (1) Fifth ray
  - (2) Other
- b. Other

### 5. Digit

- a. Brachydactyly
  - (1) With associated absence of thoracic muscle (Poland's syndrome)
  - (2) Without associated absence of thoracic muscle
- b. Ectodactyly
  - (1) Defect of middle phalanx only (brachyphalangia)
  - (2) Defect of two or more phalanges
  - (3) Defect of either proximal or distal phalanx
  - (4) Other

## VI. CONSTRICTION RING SYNDROME\*

### 1. Focal necrosis

- a. Constriction band (partial or circumferential)
  - (1) With lymphedema
  - (2) Without lymphedema

### 2. Amputation ("intrauterine")

- a. Wrist
- b. Metacarpal
- c. Digit
- d. Constriction a and b or b and c
- e. Other

## VII. GENERALIZED ABNORMALITIES AND SYNDROMES\*

Fig. 19-1 ISSH classification of congenital hand anomalies. (Modified from Upson J. Congenital anomalies of the hand and forearm. In: McCarthy JG, ed. Plastic surgery. Philadelphia, WB Saunders, 1990:5140-198.)

## Place and timing of surgery

- It has to be in a suitable Paediatric environment
- Most anaesthetists still say that anaesthetic complications are less when the child is over one year this very much depends on where you work
- There are a few rare conditions where the first op should be done urgently or in the first few months eg tight amniotic bands, complete syndactyly flexing the fingers
- Co morbidity and other planned surgery usually takes priority
- Developmental issues eg pollicisation

## Some known syndromes

VATER vertebral, anal, tracheo-esophageal, radial club  
or expand to VECTRAL by adding cardiac and renal

Holt-Oram radial club hand with ASD dominant gene

Increasingly advances in genetics are giving us more understanding of the aetiology

# Antenatal diagnosis on ultra sound

- It is becoming increasingly common
- It must be difficult for the radiologist and obstetrician to break the news
- The parents grieving has happened earlier and they are prepared for the condition at birth
- the parents are well informed before they come to the surgeons clinic and the surgeons consultations are easier



Aims of treatment is to maximise

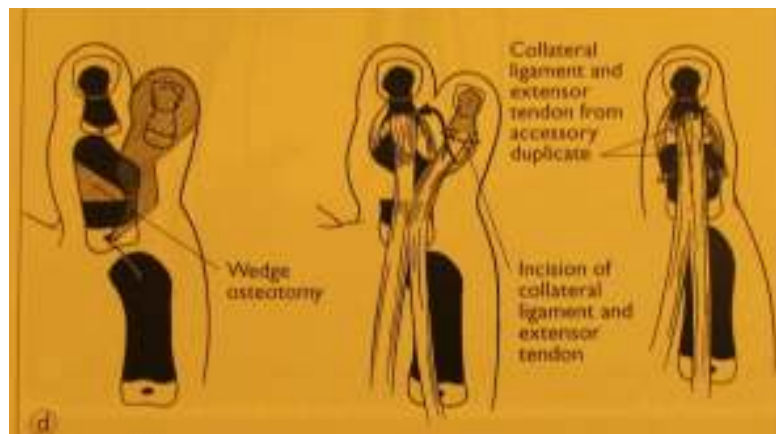
- function (bilateral anomaly is very different to unilateral)
- cosmesis (movement an important part of cosmesis)
- maximise growth (a scar is a powerful deforming force during growth)

The Congenital Hand Clinic needs  
Therapists particularly splintage  
Wound dressings  
Psychology advise on hand

# Post polydactyly



# Pre axial polydactyly



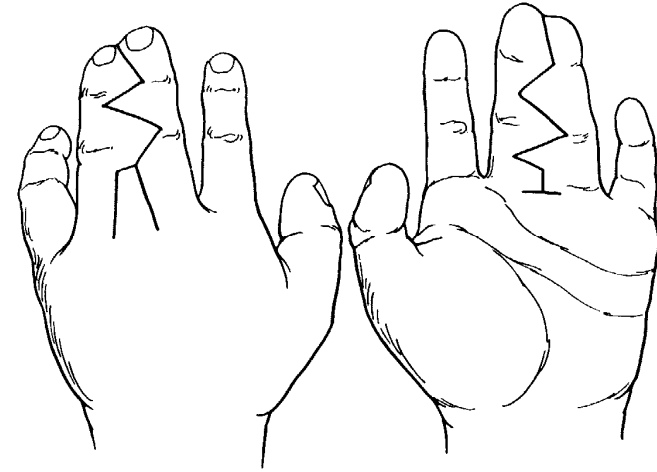
Wassel I to VII

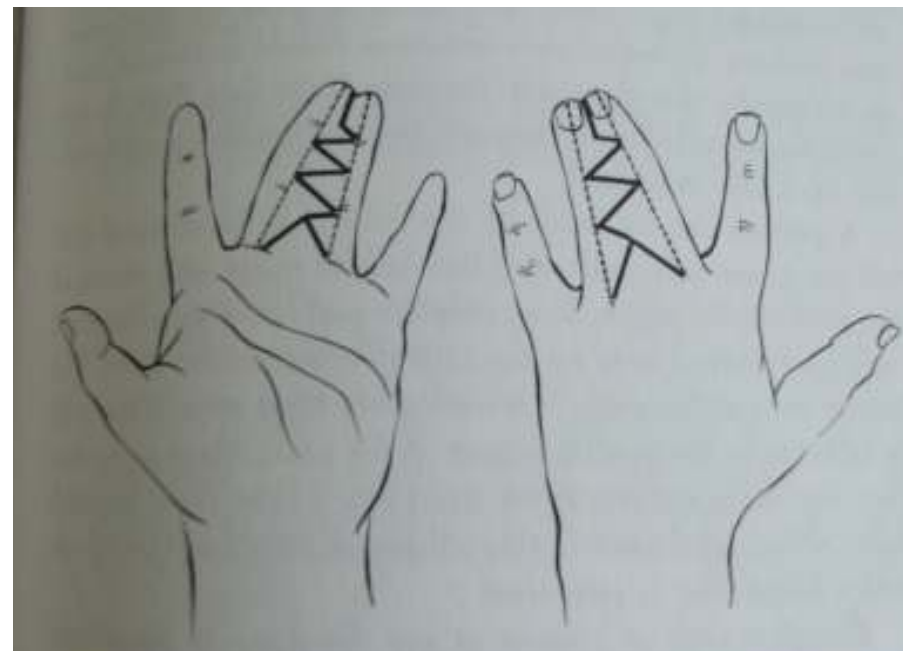
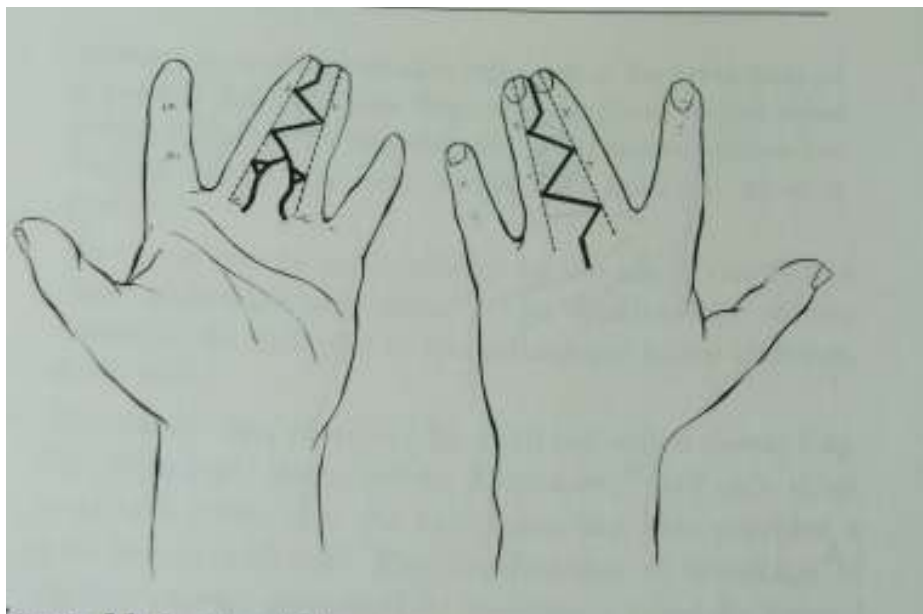
## Tri phalangeal thumbs

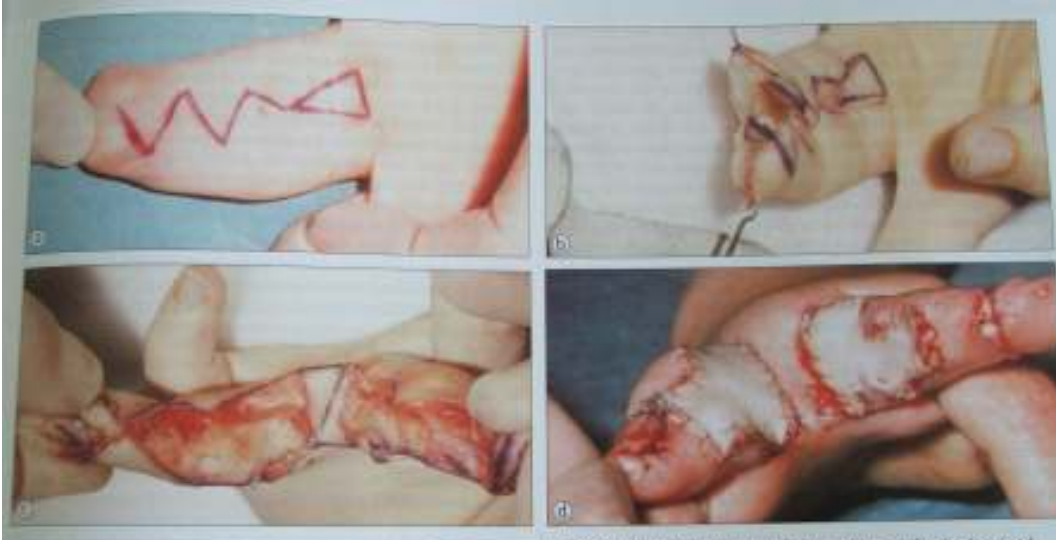


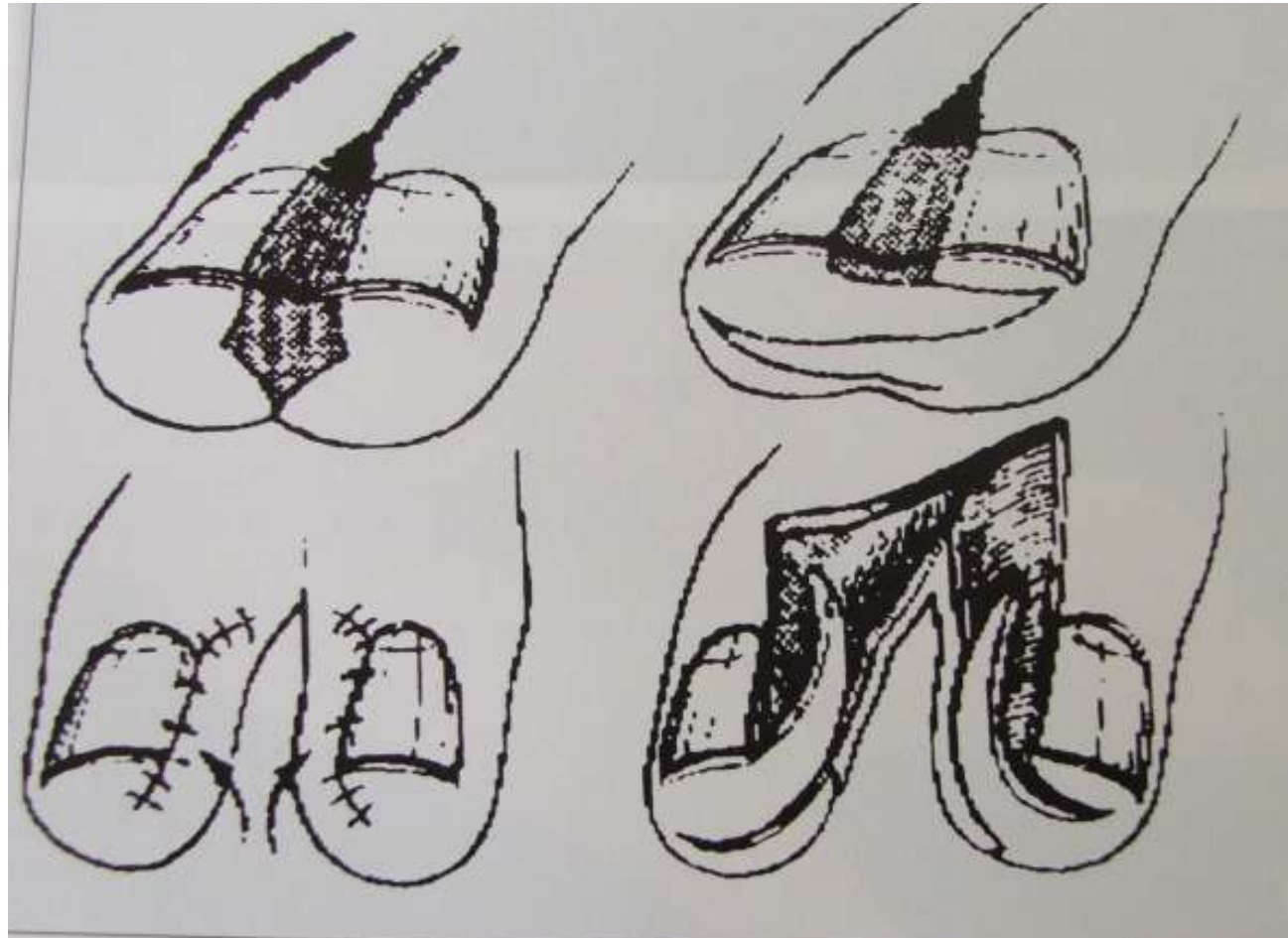


# Syndactyly









## Full thickness grafts



Full thickness skin grafts can fail even in the best Units!

If you have any doubts about a graft take, redo it at 7 days  
there is nothing to loss and every thing to gain













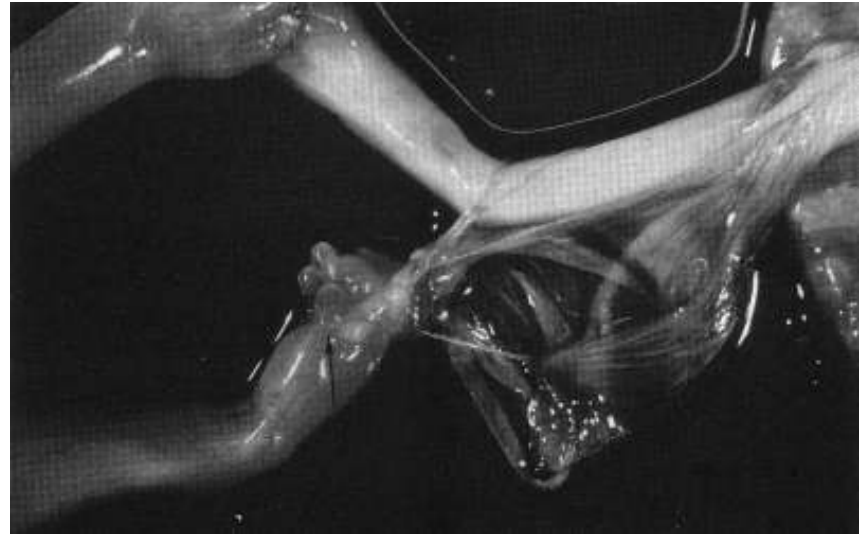
# Tissue expansion, does it help with syndactyly correction?



# Amniotic Bands



# Amniotic Bands



## Neonatal surgery to release constriction



Acro-syndactyly, joined at the tips.



After release



After 'on top' plasty





A further index stump pulp transfer

# Radial Club Hand



- Type I distal radial hypoplasia
- Type II
- Type III
- Type IV complete absence of radius



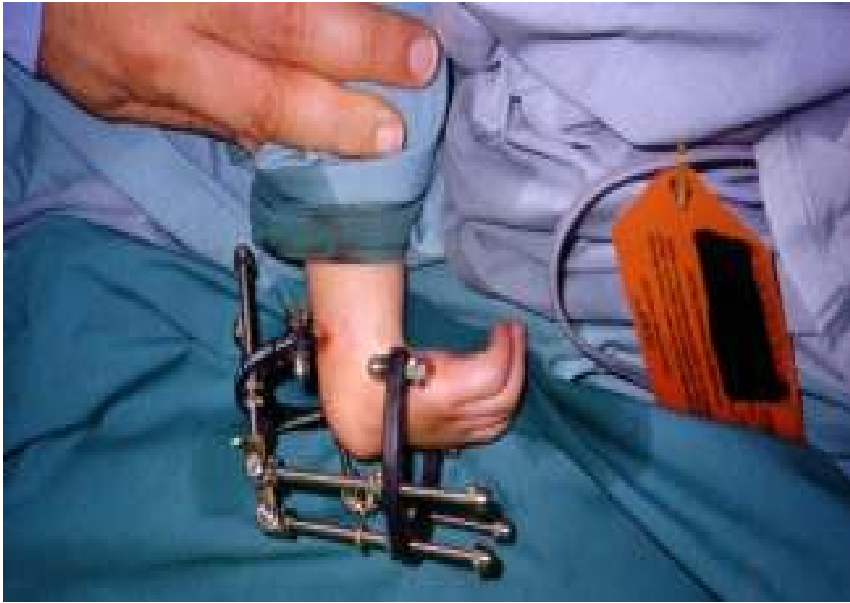


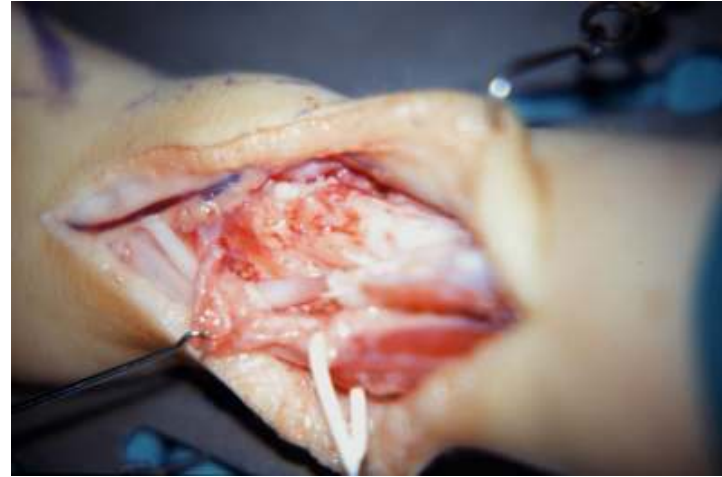


Initial treatment is  
frequent stretching  
and splinting

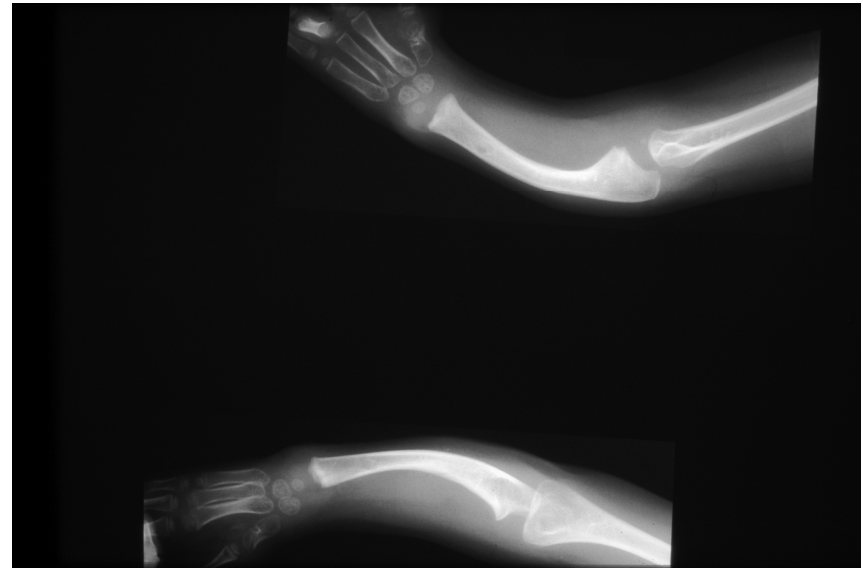
# Aphorism

Always do what your therapists  
tell you to do.











# Pollicisation of the index finger to reconstruct the thumb





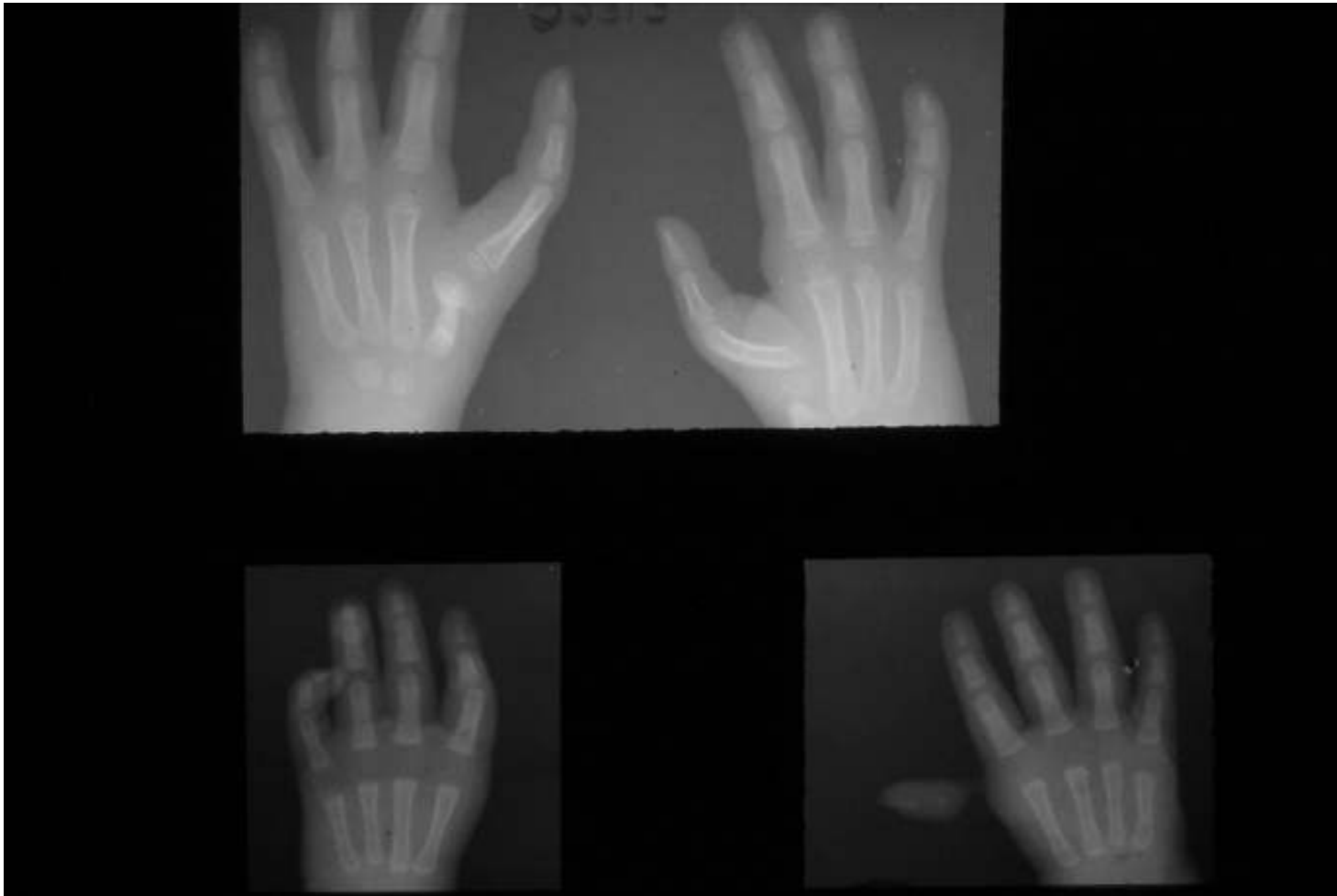




Huber transfer  
ADM to APB

What is a Camitz transfer??





Left good position

Right poor position of 'thumb' metacarpal

# Transverse arrest



Good thumb  
Good first web  
Some thumb to V stump pinch

# Free non vascularised phalangeal transfers done in the first year of life



## Free second toe transfer



## Free second toe transfer



## Free double second toe transfer





## Free second toe to thumb



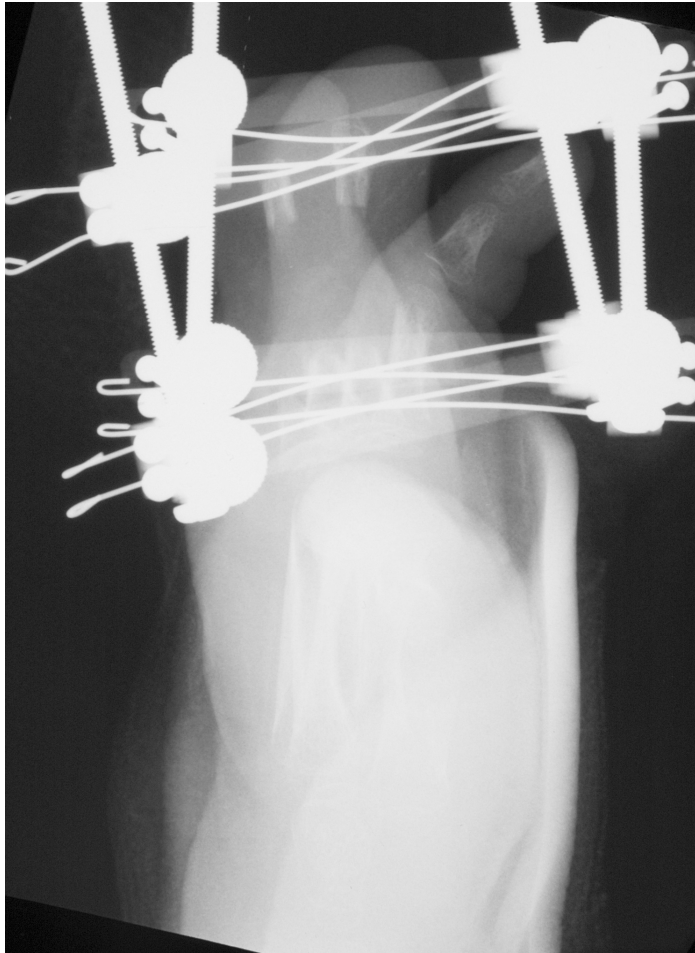


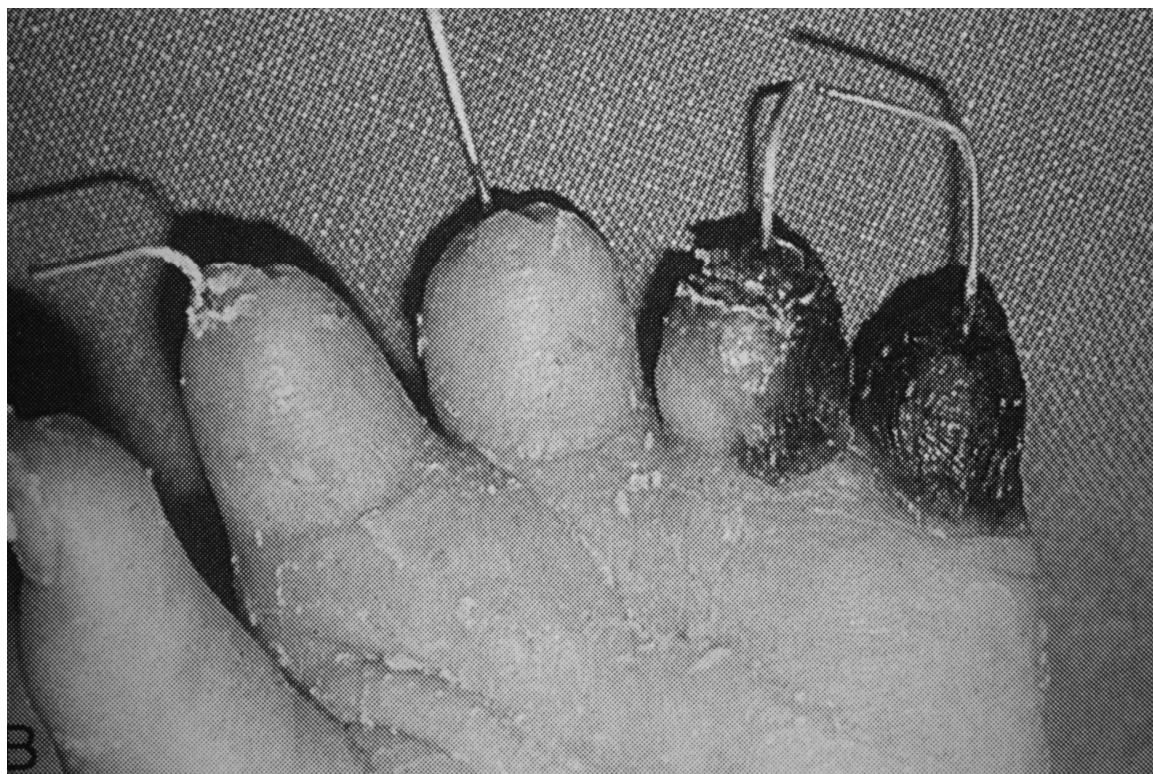
Free non- vascularised donor toes



Right non-vascularised  
Left free vascularised second toe

distraction





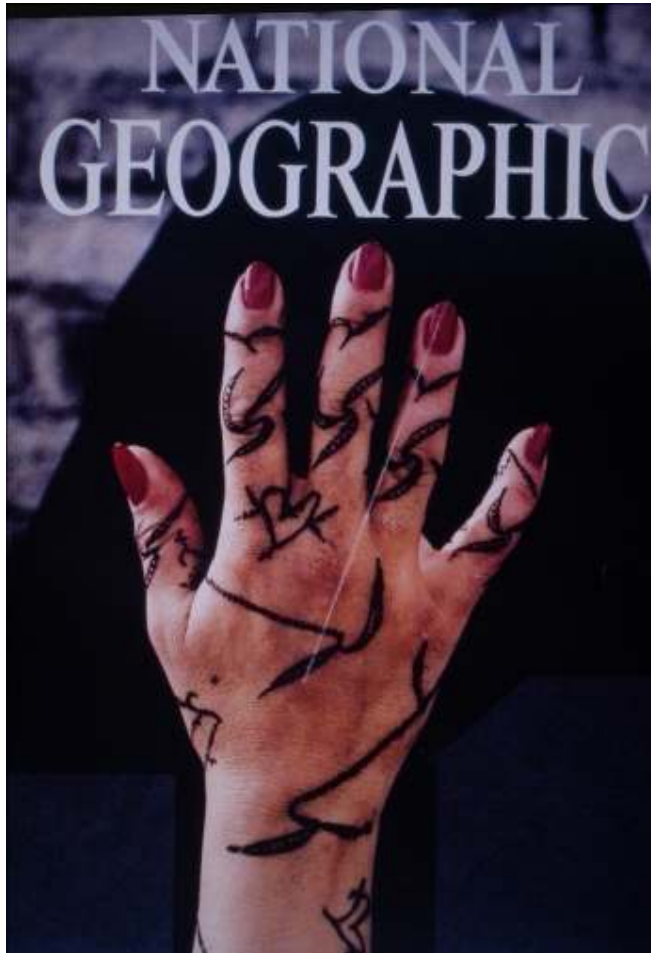
MANCHESTER AIRPORT 21/4/2010



JUST AFTER THE NO FLIGHTS BAN WAS LIFTED!!



Plan your skin incisions and plan for the skin shortage







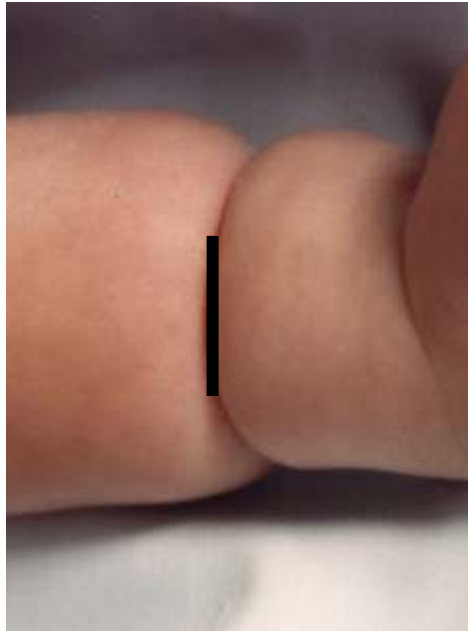
In a case with a pipj contracture the standard mid axial incision or the usual Brunner incision may not give you the extra skin that you need



# Z plasty

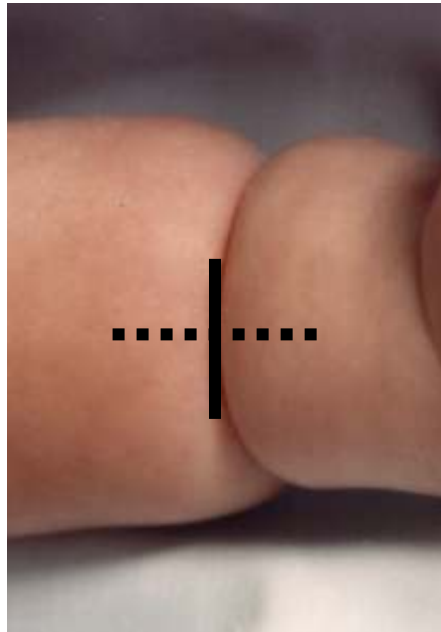


## Drawing a Z-plasty



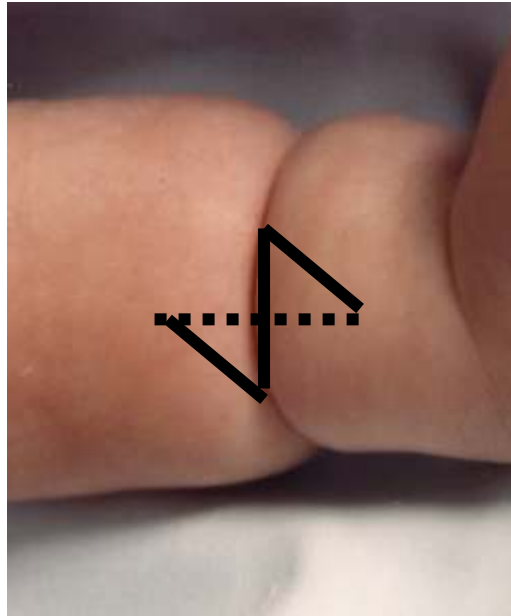
**line 1** - direction of scar or incision to be elongated

## Drawing a Z-plasty



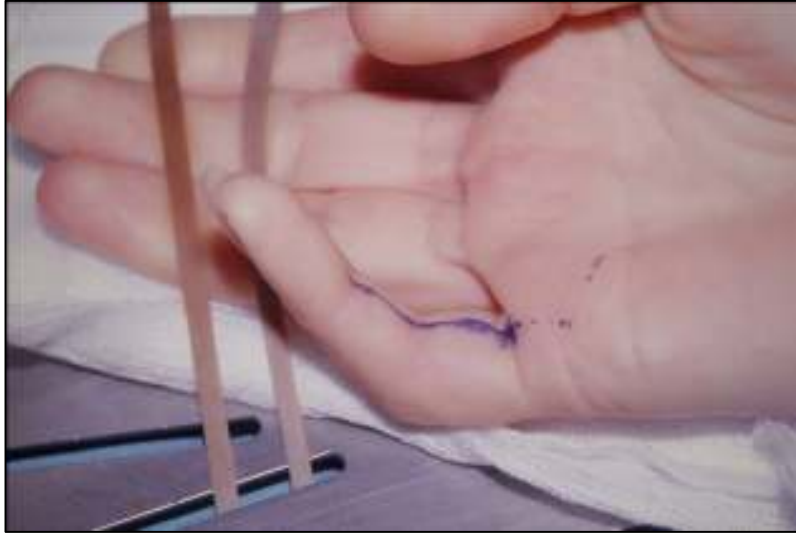
**line 2 - non cutting** line where the final transverse limb will be

## Drawing a Z-plasty



**lines 3 and 4** - at  $60^\circ$  to the 1st line

## Z plasty: drawing a Z plasty





# Full thickness grafts



Full thickness skin grafts can fail even in the best Units!  
If you have any doubts about a graft take, redo it at 7 days.  
There is nothing to lose and everything to gain.





The proposed job cuts would affect clinical staff as much as administrators PA

## The NHS in numbers

# 701,831

NHS medical staff, including 37,213 GPs; 84,595 hospital doctors; 408,160 nurses; 11,854 dentists and dental staff; 142,558 other medical staff and 17,451 members of ambulance crews

# 666,863

Non-medical staff, including 355,010 clinical support workers; 179,151 administrators; 39,913 senior managers; 353 other non-medical staff and 92,436 non-medical GP surgery staff

ense an NHS plan of action" but that would be considered.

Last night Mr O'Brien insisted: "Ministers have rejected the suggested pro-

be a £15bn shortfall in NHS funds by 2016. He added that on average 30,000 people a year retired and a substantial number left the NHS, so it was possi-

ing the vast majority to go would be front-line NHS staff," he said.

Karen Jennings, head of health at Unison, the public service trade union,

**Let's take duty**  
British women in couples still  
spend two-thirds more hours  
on chores than men do  
GETTY IMAGES



Shared housework means fewer divorces, a study shows. So in this age of equality,  
the issue of who does what still cause so much angst? By **Kate Burt**



Thierry Henry handles the ball just before the decisive goal, which left Keith Andrews (top, right) in tears after Irish protests fell on deaf ears (bottom) 75

Dennis said: "The referee said he win the game, we could have scored a bad day for football", Brady said: many are massive countries. Darragh



