

International Orthopaedics

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Cerebral palsy and birth brachial plexus injury are two of the important causes of upper limb neurological disorders across the world. With so many advancements in orthopaedic surgery, with newer implants being developed, and newer surgical techniques being reported every year, neurological injury is an area where orthopaedic surgeons still feel limited. I am delighted to present a review of a few important aspects of birth brachial plexus injury and cerebral palsy. With advancement in microsurgical techniques, there was much enthusiasm among surgeons regarding nerve repair as well as transfers for birth brachial plexus injury, but with the mixed results these became controversial. Dr. Dhiren Ganjwala and Dr. Maulin Shah both from Ahmedabad, India, have provided an excellent review of nerve repair as well as nerve transfer in birth brachial plexus injury. Their review suggests that nerve repair and transfer both improve function of children with birth-associated brachial plexus injury. The article also discusses in depth the decision about timing of nerve repair. Dr. Rujuta Mehta and Dr. Ashok Johari from Mumbai, India possess vast experience in treating birth brachial plexus injuries and present an extraordinary update on the role of muscle and tendon transfers in these injuries. I am sure surgeons will find this review extremely helpful when treating these patients.

Stem cell therapy in cerebral palsy is a very controversial issue. Many studies are being conducted across the world with contradictory results. Dr. Eng Hin Lee and Dr. Jo Dartnell from Singapore have reviewed the literature and have provided an excellent and easy to follow synopsis of their findings, along with the level of evidence of various studies. This article will help guide surgeons and parents when making the decision on using stem cell therapy in children with cerebral palsy. We still lack a well-designed controlled study to prove efficacy of stem cells in cerebral palsy.

These articles are excellent reviews of current concepts in treating neurological conditions. I am sure readers will find

them interesting as well as helpful while deciding management of these conditions.

Note from the Editor-in-Chief

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce Dr. Viraj Shingade, our special focus guest editor. Dr. Shingade graduated from Government Medical College, University Hospital in Nagpur, India in 1995 and completed an orthopaedic residency at the Indira Gandhi Medical College in Nagpur. He completed a fellowship in pediatric orthopaedics at the Guro Hospital in Seoul, South Korea and a fellowship in orthopaedic oncology at the Tate Memorial Hospital, in Mumbai, India. He has served as an orthopaedic surgeon for the Children's Orthopaedic Centre in Mahim, Mumbai, India and as Assistant Professor of the Department of Orthopaedics for the Government Medical College, University Hospital, in Nagpur. Currently, Dr. Shingade is the Director and Chief at the Children's Orthopaedic Care Institute in Nagpur, which manages children with orthopaedic and neurologic conditions from central India. Over 3000 children a year are treated for disorders that include clubfoot, DDH, cerebral palsy, tumor, scoliosis, myelomeningocele, burn contractures, and other congenital anomalies. The hospital provides cost-free care for many children from indigent families who live in the tribal areas of central India. Due to the distances and hardships these families face when seeking medical care, Dr. Shingade and his colleagues work to develop innovative treatment strategies for these patients, recently reporting an important new technique for managing neglected clubfoot deformity. Dr. Shingade also has developed a new surgical technique for congenital radioulnar synostosis.

We thank Dr. Shingade for agreeing to serve as our guest editor for this special focus section and for his tireless work for Current Orthopaedic Practice over the past years.

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