



POSNA

The Core Curriculum

Polydactyly (foot)

Objectives

1. Describe common variants of polydactyly of the foot
2. Discuss management of polydactyly of the foot

Discussion point

1. Is polydactyly of the foot genetically related to polydactyly of the hand?

Discussion

Polydactyly of the foot has a different genetic basis than polydactyly of the hand; foot polydactyly is less frequently bilateral, and lower preference for the left side. It is less common than polydactyly of the hand. It is most often postaxial, and often associated with syndactyly of the fourth and fifth toes. Polydactyly of the foot is less commonly associated with other syndromes or anomalies; the most common syndromic associations are with Trisomy 13, Meckel, and Down syndrome. Down syndrome is associated with preaxial polydactyly.

Management is usually not complicated, excision of the most lateral ray in postaxial polydactyly or the most medial in preaxial polydactyly is performed where possible. Medial polydactyly can sometimes require ingenuity in devising a treatment plan. Venn-Watson's review is still the most complete analysis of polydactyly of the foot.

References

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4. Nakamura K, Ohara K, Ohta E. A new surgical technique for postaxial polydactyly of the foot. *Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery* 1996;97(1):133-8.
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