

PHALANGEAL DISLOCATION

1626
 Hooghe. Koppen. Heeren
 Guk is geslekt t'hoop trouwen van Amsterdam
 aenkomst ende is des 23^{en} Septem. met vrede Tude
 lant gezegt met de Heere Mauritius. rapporte
 dat ons volck daer klove is in vrede. Lijck
 sake vrede. Guk is oec kinder. atre. g'baet
 Guk is v'leant. Manhattes van de vrede. g'baet. v'leant
 de vrede. van 60. gul. is groot 11000 m'g'g.
 Guk is alle kore. g'baet. ende g'baet
 auguste. g'baet. daer van. g'baet. minste. kore.
 van. g'baet. kore. als. tarwe. kore. g'baet. g'baet
 bou. v'leant. kore. g'baet. boontje. in. v'leant.
 Het Cargasoen van t'afschep is
 7246 k'k'k' v'leant
 178 1/2 ottel v'leant
 675 ottel v'leant
 28. m'leant v'leant
 36. v'leant v'leant
 33 m'leant
 34 k'k'k' v'leant.
 West. g'baet. balck. in. Rotterdam.
 Guk. m'leant
 Gooze. m'leant. g'baet. zyt. de. Demog'leant
 in. v'leant. k'k'k'.
 In. Amsterdam. den. 5^{en}. novem. a^o. 1626.
 G'baet. Moo. Moo. Dienst. v'leant
 Schaghen

“In Amsterdam, The 5th November Anno Domini 1626”.

*High and Mighty Lords
My Lords the States General
At the Hague*

Yesterday arrived here the ship the Arms of Amsterdam, which sailed from New Netherland, out of the River Maurits, on the 23rd September. They report that our people are in good heart and live in peace there; Women also have borne some children there. They have purchased the island Manhattes from the Indians for the value of 60 guilders; it is 11,000 morgens in size. They had all their grain sowed by the middle of May, and reaped by the middle of August. They send thence samples of summer grain; such as wheat, rye, barley, oats, buckwheat, canary seed, beans and flax. The cargo of the aforesaid ship is

*7246 Beaver skins
178 ½ Otter skins
675 Otter skins
48 Mink skins
36 Wildcat skins
33 Minks
34 Rat skins
Considerable Oak timber and Hickory.*

*Herewith,
High and mighty Lords, be commended to the mercy of the Almighty.
In Amsterdam, The 5th November Anno Domini 1626.
Your High Mightinesses' obedient,
P. Schagen.*

This is one of the most famous historical documents in the Dutch language and indeed is one of the most remarkable historical documents in existence! It resides deep within the archives of the New York Public Library among countless thousands of other largely unexplored Dutch records of the Seventeenth Century. It is a note from an Amsterdam bureaucrat, Peter Schagen, of the mighty Westindische Compagnie (or Dutch West India Company) providing a routine report to his superiors of the safe arrival of one of its merchant ships from the New World. One has to examine the document closely however before the full realization of its significance becomes unsettlingly apparent. It gives a cheery but non-discript report on the good progress of the embryonic colony of New Amsterdam. The people are in good spirits, crops have been established, even some children have been born to the settlement. Samples of the various grains being harvested have been proudly sent back for examination by the Company Directors. There is an inventory of the ship's bounteous cargo, consisting of valuable furs and timbers.

The historical importance of the document however resides in a single passing and seemingly innocuous sentence - and makes its monetary and cultural value priceless - "They have purchased the island Manhattes from the Indians for the value of 60 guilders".

This is the birth certificate of Manhattan and New York City!

It is the only document in existence which records the very moment that Manhattan Island was formerly claimed by the Dutch Republic. Their new world colony of New Amsterdam had just been recently established and was clinging to the barest of survivals on the edge of a vast unexplored continent, rich in natural resources, but as yet untapped, and surrounded by large numbers of often hostile indigenous tribes. These tribes were not only hostile to the new settlers they seemed to be in a constant state of warfare among themselves; emanating from a bewildering kaleidoscope of ever changing alliances. Apart from a few adventurous explorers, hunters and traders, the settlers hardly dared venture into the wilds beyond the sanctuary of their small coastal colony. At some point before September of the year 1626, the colonists purchased from one of the local Indian tribes, the Lenape, the island of Manhattes, today known as Manhattan. Their tiny Colony of New Amsterdam today is New York City. The island was purchased for 60 guilders worth of "goods" - which would have consisted of a small collection of objects such as knives, beads, shells, blankets, possibly a few guns. A mid-Nineteenth century estimate put the equivalent value at that time at around 24 dollars. Today the island of Manhattan is one of the most densely populated areas in the world - its land value is counted in the trillions of dollars, it packs the most densely concentrated number of skyscrapers in the world and it is the recognized capital of Western commerce.

All a very very far cry from the densely forested unexplored wilderness Eden of 1626! Of course it all begs the question - was the Manhattan purchase the greatest land deal (or swindle) in history? To understand just exactly how this "deal" was achieved is impossible through the eyes of those in the Twenty First century, where land is scarce in a world populated by over 6 billion people. The "deal" can only be understood from the perspective of the Seventeenth Century - and that perspective had entirely different angles according to the two totally different - and to each other - alien cultures. Europeans were well versed in property ownership coming from the cramped Old World - land was always a premium for them. In the New World the situation was unimaginably different - land appeared to be endless - even to the indigenous tribes - whilst a certain tribe may have transiently dominated a particular region, there was no firm concept of actual land ownership - the land simply belonged to everyone. The idea that land could be bought and sold was completely alien to them. They simply had no mental framework that could accommodate such a proposal. They would have struggled to understand just exactly what it was that the Dutch had proposed to them. Many historians, such as Russell Shorto, consider that the Lenape in fact had believed that the deal was an "alliance" of friendship - sealed with "ceremonial" or "symbolic" gift giving; and probably with an understanding that the Dutch would become the enemies of their enemies. They would not have considered that they had totally given up the land to the Dutch forever - in fact they continued to inhabit the region after the deal - and "allowed" the Dutch to remain on the island in view of the perceived alliance they had negotiated with them. In later centuries - following cataclysmic levels of mass migration from the Old World - their disillusionment would be severe as they gradually came to realize the full implications of the European "legal" claim to the land- as well as their intention to enforce it by violence!

When assessing patients radiologically for a possible dislocated joint it is important to remember that just as the Manhattan deal could be seen very differently according to

what particular side you were viewing it from - so it is with our radiological view. The image you have may be very different according to the side you are viewing it from!

PHALANGEAL DISLOCATION

Introduction

Phalangeal dislocations are common presentations to the ED.

Upper limb phalangeal injury is more common than lower limb phalangeal injury.

It is important to get at least two radiological views at right angles to each other to fully assess a dislocation injury.

Important complications include mallet finger and a breach of the joint capsule in compound injuries.

Mechanism

Hand phalanges:

- The most common mechanism is via sports injuries.
- Direct blows to the tip of the phalanx from a ball is a common mechanism.

Foot phalanges:

- The most common mechanism of lower limb phalangeal dislocation will be kick or “stubbed” toe type injury.

Complications

Potential complications include:

1. Mallet finger:
 - Usually seen in association with upper limb phalanges.
 - See separate guidelines.
2. Fractured articular joint surface:
 - Greater than 1/3 of the articular surface involvement is considered a significant injury.
3. Subungual hematomas:
 - See separate guidelines.
4. Compound injuries:

- These are potentially serious because of the high likelihood of proximal interphalangeal or distal interphalangeal joint involvement.
5. Neurovascular compromise:
- This is not usually a concern, unless the injury is particularly severe.
6. Longer term:
- Improperly managed injuries, will be prone to secondary osteoarthritic changes.

Investigations



Thirty eight year old male with dislocation of the left first metacarpophalangeal joint. The lateral thumb view clearly shows the dislocation, note however the injury may easily be missed on a different (in this case A-P) view.

- Plain radiography will readily make the diagnosis.
- Two views at right angles should be taken to fully appreciate the injury.
- If there is any doubt it is best done to rule out fracture.

- Intra-articular air will indicate a breach of the joint space.

Management

1. The most important considerations in the management of phalangeal dislocations will be:

- Ruling out any significant complications such as mallet finger or compound injury.
- The method of analgesia.

2. Reduction:

- Reduction in most cases is straight forward. It is readily achieved by simple traction. Occasionally some manipulation with either a ventrally or dorsally applied pressure will also be required.
- Reduction should be urgent, even before radiology, if there is significant vascular compromise.

3. Compound injuries:

- Should receive prompt IV antibiotics and prompt reduction.

4. Analgesia:

The choice of analgesia will depend on the severity of injury and the age group of the patient.

Options include:

- **Nitrous oxide:**
 - ♥ This is usually adequate for reduction of straight forward dislocations and is a good option for children.
- **Digital nerve blocks:**
 - ♥ These will provide the best analgesia, however will require needle injection, which will usually make this technique unsuitable for children or the particularly anxious.
- **Intranasal Fentanyl**
- **IV Sedation:**

- ♥ IV sedation with morphine/ midazolam or IM/ IV sedation with ketamine are further options in young children or the very anxious.

Disposition

Hand phalangeal dislocations:

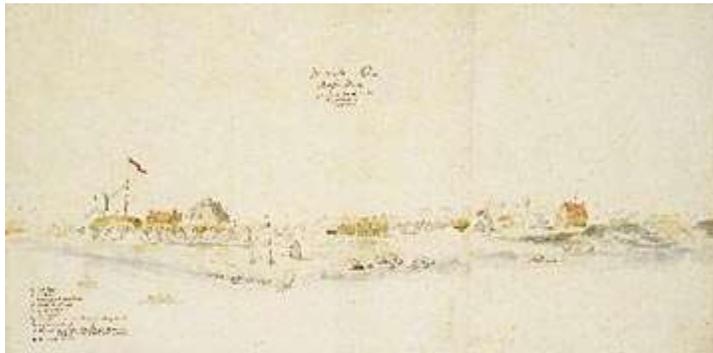
Complicated hand phalangeal injuries, should be referred to the plastics unit.

Considerations for referral will include:

- Compound injuries, especially with breeches of the joint capsule.
- Tendon injuries.
- Associated fractures with greater than 1/3 of the articular surface involved.

Foot phalangeal dislocations:

- Complicated foot phalangeal injuries, are generally referred to the orthopaedics unit.



The Albertina drawing, discovered in 1991, illustrated the text of Adriaen van der Donck's "Remonstrance" and served as the prototype for the Blaeu and Visscher etchings of New Amsterdam. Dated 1648, it is the oldest known depiction of New York City. Austrian National Library, Vienna.

References

Further reading: The Island at the Center of the World, Russell Shorto, Doubleday, 2004.

Dr J. Hayes

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