

Clinical Image

Subcutaneous Rupture of The Extensor Pollicis Longus Tendon

Azriouil Ouahb*

Department of Orthopaedic and Traumatology, Avicenne Military Hospital, Marrakech, Morocco

***Corresponding author:** Azriouil Ouahb, Department of Orthopaedic and Traumatology, Avicenne Military Hospital, Marrakech, Morocco.

Received: December 05, 2024; **Accepted:** December 26, 2024; **Published:** January 02, 2025

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Subcutaneous rupture of the extensor pollicis longus tendon is a rare condition in hand pathology. Diagnosis is clinical, marked by the loss of active thumb extension. Treatment involves a tendon transfer, followed by immobilization in a thumb-supporting splint for 21 days, and subsequent rehabilitation.



Figure 1: On the left, the photo demonstrates the inability to lift the thumb off the surface of the table. On the right, the photo shows the harvesting of the extensor indicis proprius tendon, ready for transfer.



Figure 2: On the left, the photo shows the transfer of the extensor indicis proprius tendon using the Pulvertaft suture technique. On the right, the photo demonstrates the restoration of thumb extension.