

Editor's Comment

Neurovascular Anatomy and Elbow Arthroscopy: Inherent Risks

This is a carefully done and beautiful demonstration of the anatomy about the elbow joint. The authors state that elbow arthroscopy is a safe procedure in that there are no reports of major neurovascular complications. This is not surprising considering that the few papers written on the subject are by very experienced arthroscopists. If elbow arthroscopy is adopted with the same enthusiasm as knee arthroscopy, there will certainly be a disturbing number of complications, whether reported or not. One year ago, our office received a report of irreparable damage to the ulnar nerve

caused during an attempt at performing an abrasion arthroplasty of the elbow.

Thus far, the role of arthroscopy in the treatment of diseases and injuries of the elbow joint has not been established. Anyone contemplating elbow arthroscopy should weigh the risks against the possible advantages of arthroscopic surgery over arthrotomy.

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