Tarsal tunnel syndrome and additional nerve lesions in the same limb


Abstract: Compression neuropathy in the lower extremity is common. The occurrence of more than one lesion of the nerve in the same limb is less frequent. Thirteen patients with 15 cases of tarsal tunnel syndrome associated with one or more additional lesions of the sciatic nerve or its branches of the same lower extremity are presented. Electrodiagnostic studies confirmed tarsal tunnel syndrome with conduction abnormalities at a number of locations along the sciatic, common peroneal, posterior tibial, or plantar nerves by mechanical impingement, metabolic axonal abnormality, or both. Seven of the 13 patients were treated with tarsal tunnel release. Six cases treated operatively improved significantly. Surgery on a previously operated foot or the existence of diabetes mellitus carried a fair prognosis. The association of back pain with or without previous surgery did not appear to affect the outcome of the tarsal tunnel release. No improvement in symptoms was apparent in the six unoperated patients during the period of the study. Multiple lesions of the nerves of a single extremity may account for the variable success rate of tarsal tunnel release.