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“Upper Extremity Nerve Pathology: Localizing the Lesion for Optimal Management”

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Peripheral nerve pathology presents with constellation of symptoms depending on the severity and the nerves involved. Compression neuropathy of the upper extremity can be posttraumatic or may present as gradually progressing neural symptoms. Successful management of the peripheral nerve pathology is dependent on detailed knowledge of anatomy and physiology. Physical therapists are highly qualified professionals who are trained to recognize signs and symptoms and use the diagnostic tests like electromyography, nerve conduction studies, and ultrasound imaging to inform the clinical decision and guide the management of the patient. Electromyography and nerve conduction studies are useful to localize the lesion and understand the prognosis. The speakers will highlight the role of electromyography and nerve conduction studies, related neuroanatomy and neurophysiology, and how to integrate this knowledge to inform the clinical decision. Ultrasound imaging is a rapidly growing and popular point-of-care assessment tool which has its application in understanding structural perspective of nerve pathology and can provide insight into rare anomalies or abnormalities of soft tissue structures in the nerve vicinity. The speakers will examine the role of ultrasound imaging in understanding the upper extremity neural pathology.