

Spontaneous Rupture of the Extensor Pollicis Longus of the Hand

Kotaro Suzuki* and Iwao Yamagishi

Department of Surgery, Iida City Takamatsu Hospital, Nagano, Japan

*Corresponding author: Kotaro Suzuki, Department of Surgery, Iida City Takamatsu Hospital, Nagano, Japan.

E-mail: kotaro.suzu1@gmail.com

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Clinical Image

A 32-year-old male patient, Caucasian, is at the emergency without personal pathologic records. The patient is the owner of a pizza shop and realizes multiple manual tasks. The reason for a medical consultation is the impossibility of actively extending the first finger of his skillful hand. This event suddenly occurred after feeling a non-painful snap at the base of the first finger. The patient had been with mild pain when doing manual tasks during the previous week. The pain was localized on the wrist dorsum. The patient declared not to have had similar pain before. He denied having any trauma or making any physical effort.

The physical examination highlighted the impossibility of active or passive extension of the interphalangeal joint of the first finger, without limitation to the abduction or adduction of the first finger. No pain when palpating the interphalangeal or metacarpophalangeal of the first finger. No deficit when extending the fist or a decrease in the sensibility of the first finger. The x-ray of the hand affected did not show loss of joint congruity or fractures.