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Peripheral Nerve Injury associated with a Subdermal Contraceptive Implant:
Illustrative Cases and Systematic Review of Literature

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1 **Peripheral Nerve Injury associated with a Subdermal**

2 **Contraceptive Implant:**

3 **Illustrative Cases and Systematic Review of Literature**

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5 **SHORT TITLE** Nerve Injury associated with a Subdermal Contraceptive Implant

6 **ABSTRACT**

7 **BACKGROUND** Despite the demonstrable safety and efficacy of subdermal contraceptive
8 implants (SCI), both insertion and removal of SCI in the arm have been associated with
9 neurovascular complications. The primary aim of this study is to investigate the type and
10 prognosis of nerve injuries associated with SCI.

11 **METHODS** The authors performed a comprehensive search of 4 electronic databases for
12 studies pertaining to patients with nerve injury and concurrent SCI. Studies published between
13 January 1987 and June 2017 were included. Implant location, damaged nerve(s), clinical
14 presentation, preoperative imaging (X-rays, ultrasound, MRI), neurologic evaluation (nerve
15 conduction studies and electromyography), and treatment methods were reviewed. To outline
16 management strategies, 2 illustrative cases of major nerve injury caused by implant removal
17 were presented.

18 **RESULTS** A total of 10 studies including 12 patients were analyzed. Fourteen nerve injuries
19 were reported during SCI insertion (n=1) and removal (n=11). The medial antebrachial
20 cutaneous (n=5) and median (n=5) nerves were primarily affected. Neuropathic pain was the
21 main symptom. The primary reasons for nerve injury were pulling or grasping of the nerve
22 (n=9) after mistaking it for the implant. Neurapraxia (n=7) was the most common lesion and

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