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Extensor tendon injuries of the fingers

Essay

Submitted in partial fulfillment for the master degree
in orthopaedic surgery

By

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Supervised by

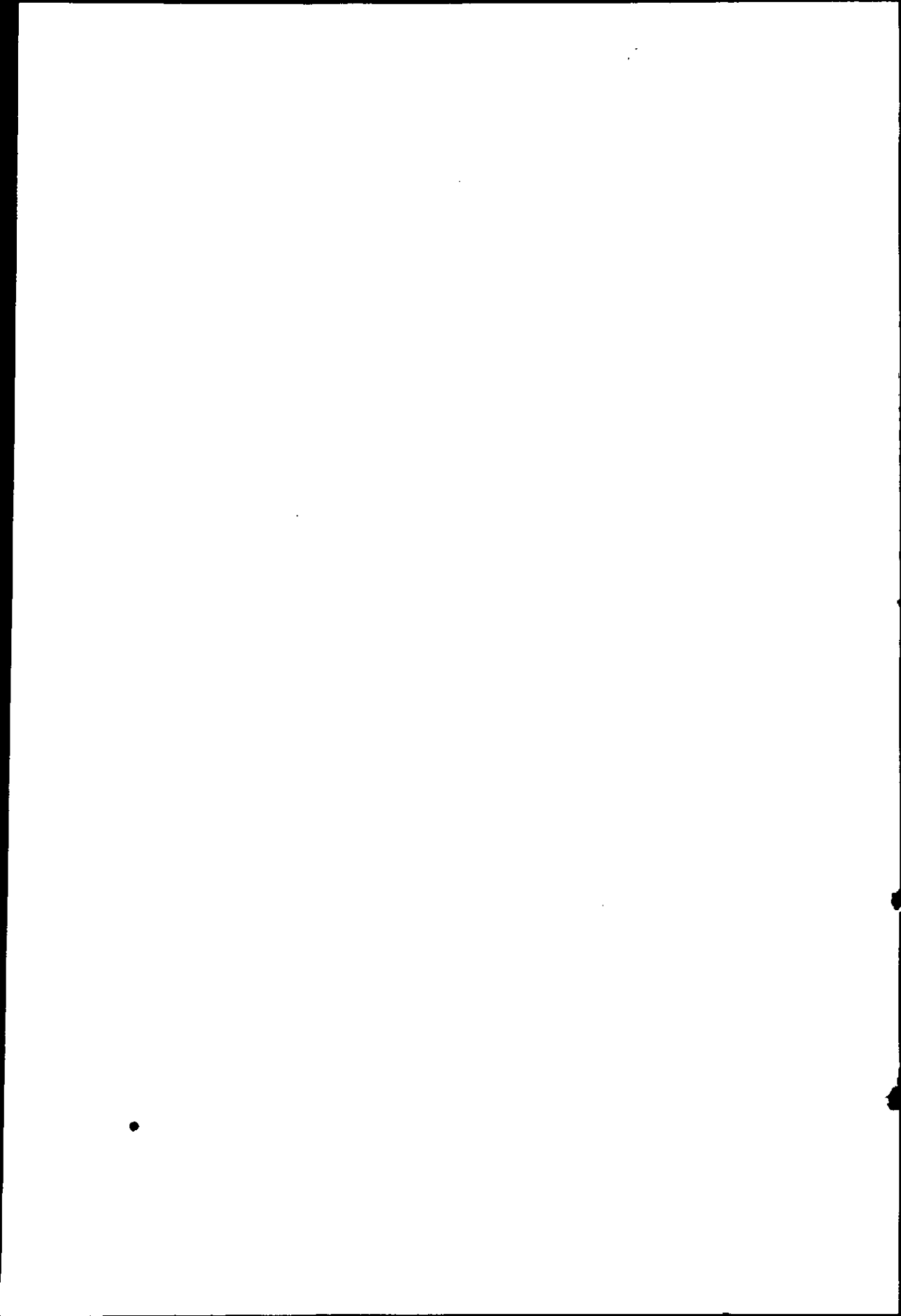
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Abstract

Lacerations of the wrist and digit extensor tendons are common, owing to their relatively exposed and superficial location. The management of injuries to the extensor mechanism demands the same amount of skill and knowledge required for the care of flexor tendon injuries. The extensor mechanism in the fingers is thinner and does not hold sutures as well as flexor tendons do. At the wrist and forearm, the extensor tendons are more substantial and hold sutures better, but they may be repaired with the erroneous assumption that success will be inevitable if the tendon ends can be approximated.

(Slater and Bynum, 1997)

The superficial position of the extensor tendons on the dorsum of the hand render them susceptible to injury. The intimate association of the tendons to bone and joint capsule also means these structures are often injured together. Although much has been written concerning the treatment of extensor tendon injuries, relatively little has been published concerning the quality of result after repair. Current concepts suggest that extensor injuries heal well if treated appropriately.

Keywords

Histology of extensor tendons

Extensor tendon healing

Biomechanics of finger extension ...

Diagnosis of extensor tendon injuries

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

First and foremost thanks are due to **GOD**, the most beneficent and merciful.

I wish to express my deepest gratitude and sincere thanks to Prof. Dr. **Abd El Salam Abd El Ghafar**, Prof. Of Orthopaedic Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University, for his unlimited support, continuous stimulation, kind supervision and generous help. His sincere advice and impressive encouragement pushed me forward to fulfill this work.

I'm immensely indebted and deeply grateful to Dr. **Yasser El Safoury**, Lecturer of Orthopaedic Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University, for his great encouragement, excellent guidance, powerful support, valuable constructive advice and generous help throughout his work. Indeed, he gave me a lot of his time and effort to complete this work.

Lastly, but not the least, I can not find the words that can express my deepest appreciation and gratitude to my family for their help and support which made it possible for this work to be done.



Contents

1- Introduction.....	1
2- Anatomy of extensor tendons.....	4
3- Histology of extensor tendons	19
4- Extensor tendon healing	26
5- Biomechanics of finger extension	39
6- Diagnosis of extensor tendon injuries.....	47
7- Management of extensor tendon injuries.....	58
8- Protocol of rehabilitation.....	124
9- Results of extensor tendon repair.....	134
10- Summary.....	141
11- References.....	145
12- Arabic summary.....	156

