

Uncinectomy

Case series

A case series of patients with [cervical radiculopathy](#) or myeloradiculopathy who underwent single-level or multilevel ultrasonic total uncinectomy (UTU) in combination with anterior cervical discectomy and fusion is presented. The uncinate process was amputated along its base with an ultrasonic bone dissector and removed en bloc to expose the cervical root and the vertebral artery. Data gathered in accordance with routine practice were analyzed retrospectively.

Forty-four uncinate processes were resected in 38 patients. No UTU procedures were aborted because of technical difficulties, and no vertebral artery or nerve root injury occurred. Mean follow-up was 28 weeks (range, 14-37 weeks). Mean Neck Disability Index and Visual Analog Scale scores for neck and arm pain improved from 42%, 4.9%, and 6.8% to 23%, 2.6%, and 2.1%, respectively. Postoperative computed tomography and oblique radiographs revealed complete decompression of the neural foramen after UTU.

UTU is a safe and effective technique for complete decompression of cervical nerve roots when the coexistence of central and foraminal pathology dictates an anterior approach. The surgical technique is described in detail ¹⁾.

¹⁾

Pakzaban P. Ultrasonic total uncinectomy: a novel technique for complete anterior decompression of cervical nerve roots. *Neurosurgery*. 2014 Dec;10 Suppl 4:535-41; discussion 541. doi: 10.1227/NEU.0000000000000549. PubMed PMID: 25181437.

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