

# International Orthopaedics

## Does nerve repair or transfer really help in birth associated brachial plexus injury (obstetric palsy)? Current evidence

Dhiren Ganjwala, MD and Maulin Shah, MD

### **ABSTRACT**

Brachial plexus birth palsy occurs in 0.1–0.4% of live births, with most showing signs of recovery in the first 2 mo of life. In infants who do not recover in the first 3 mo of life have a considerable risk of long-term disability. If recovery extends beyond 6 mo, surgery may be indicated, based on the type of nerve injury. Avulsion injuries are mainly treated with nerve transfers. Ruptures have varying degrees of recovery, and their treatment remains controversial concerning indications and timing of surgery. This article reviews nerve repair, timing of surgery, technique, and results.

### **Key Words**

Nerve repair, brachial plexus injury, birth, microsurgical