Teaching NeuroImages: Ulnar neuropathy related to a contraceptive subdermal implant

A 51-year-old woman experienced intermittent left hand numbness and weakness over 2 years, with a claw-hand deformity and weakness of finger abduction, adduction, and distal interphalangeal joint flexion of the medial 2 fingers. Wrist flexion produced hand radial deviation. Palmar and dorsal aspects of digits IV (medially) and V, including medial forearm, had decreased pinprick sensation. Nerve conduction studies showed

Motor conduction segmental studies reveal a conduction block at a site approximately 14 cm above the medial epicondyle.

Sonography over the site of the ulnar conduction block reveals a hyperechogenic structure corresponding to the contraceptive implant (I) lying above and distorting the ulnar nerve (U). H = humerus.
conduction block 14 cm above the medial epicondyle (figure 1), where Tinel sign was positive. Sonography (figure 2) revealed a hyperechogenic structure distorting the ulnar nerve. The patient had a surgically implanted subdermal contraceptive 10 years prior, causing a rare occurrence of neuropathy.1,2

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS
J.J.Y. Ong: drafting/revising the manuscript, study concept or design, analysis or interpretation of data, accepts responsibility for conduct of research and final approval. A.K. Therimadasamy: study concept or design, accepts responsibility for conduct of research and final approval, acquisition of data. Dr. Wilder-Smith: drafting/revising the manuscript, study concept or design, analysis or interpretation of data, accepts responsibility for conduct of research and final approval, study supervision.

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REFERENCES
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