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Repair or Reconstruction of Injured Tendon or Ligament with or without graft

General indications for the procedure:

The indications for the procedure are to repair an injured tendon or ligament that plays an important role in the strength or stability of the hand, wrist or elbow

Description of Procedure:

The injured tendon or ligament is exposed using an open surgical incision. In the case of a direct repair, the original ligament or tendon is able to be repaired directly to itself with suture, or anchored back down to where it came from on the bone using suture, or a metal anchor or screw. If the tendon or ligament is not able to be directly repaired, it may require use of an expendable tendon from elsewhere in the patient's body, or a cadaver tendon to restore the function of the injured tendon or ligament. These procedures are done under general or regional anesthesia.

Risks of the Procedure:

The risks of the procedure include infection at the surgical site, injury to arteries or nerves in the area of the surgical incisions (particularly numbness around the surgical incision is common), incomplete recovery of the function of the injured ligament or tendon, stiffness after healing, and possible need for further surgery.

Procedure Alternatives, if any:

The alternatives to the surgery are non-operative treatments using splints, oral pain medicine, injections, and activity modifications.

Probable Consequences of Refusing Procedure:

Probable consequences of refusing this procedure are persistent instability from insufficiency of the ligament, or loss of strength/function from the insufficiency of the tendon.