KINES 80

Chapter 4



Bones of the Elbow and Forearm

Bony landmarks for the radius, ulna and humerus. Yes, you need to know these. Looks like a lot, but it is slightly repetitive.



Facets on the distal surface of the radius

Major ligaments of elbow and distal radioulnar joint



From Kinetic Anatomy, Second Edition, by Robert S. Behnke, 2006, Champaign, L: Human Kinetics.

The Elbow & Radioulnar Joints

- Most upper extremity movements involve the elbow & radioulnar joints
- Usually grouped together due to close anatomical relationship
- Elbow joint movements may be clearly distinguished from those of the radioulnar joints
- Radioulnar joint movements may be distinguished from those of the wrist

Bones

- Ulna is much larger proximally than radius
- Radius is much larger distally than ulna
- Scapula & humerus serve as proximal attachments for muscles that flex & extend the elbow
- Ulna & radius serve as distal attachments for these same muscles



- Ginglymus or hinge-type joint
- Allows only flexion & extension
- 2 interrelated joints
 - humeroulnar joint
 - radiohumeral joints



- Elbow motions
 - primarily involve movement between articular surfaces of humerus & ulna
 - specifically humeral trochlear fitting into ulna trochlear notch
 - radial head has a relatively small amount of contact with capitulum of humerus
 - As elbow reaches full extension, olecranon process is received by olecranon fossa
 - increased joint stability when fully extended

- As elbow flexes 20 degrees or more, its bony stability is unlocked, allowing for more side-to-side laxity
- Stability in flexion is more dependent on the lateral (radial collateral ligament) & the medial or (ulnar collateral ligament)



- Radioulnar joint
 - Joint between shafts of radius & ulna held tightly together between proximal & distal articulations by an interosseus membrane (syndesmosis)
 - substantial rotary motion between the bones

- Synergy between glenohumeral, elbow, & radioulnar joint muscles
 - As the radioulnar joint goes through its ROM, glenohumeral & elbow muscles contract to stabilize or assist in the effectiveness of movement at the radioulnar joints
 - Ex. when tightening a screw with a screwdriver which involves radioulnar supination, we tend to externally rotate & flex the glenohumeral & elbow joints, respectfully

- Synergy between glenohumeral, elbow, & radioulnar joint muscles
 - Conversely, when loosening a tight screw with pronation, we tend to internally rotate & extend the elbow & glenohumeral joints, respectfully
 - we depend on both the agonists and antagonists in the surrounding joints to assist in an appropriate amount of stabilization & assistance with the required task

- Ulnar collateral ligament is critical in providing medial support to prevent elbow from abducting when stressed in physical activity
 - Many contact sports & throwing activities place stress on medial aspect of joint, resulting in injury



Fundamental Movements and Muscles of the Elbow and Forearm

Flexion (anterior muscles)

Brachialis, brachioradialis, biceps brachii

Extension (posterior muscles)

Triceps brachii, anconeus

Supination

Biceps brachii, supinator

Pronation

Pronator quadratus, pronator teres

Movements

- Pronation
 - internal rotary movement of radius on ulna that results in hand moving from palm-up to palm-down position
- Supination
 - external rotary movement of radius on ulna that results in hand moving from palmdown to palm-up position



Muscles of the elbow

Anterior:

Brachialis, brachioradialis – 1 joint movement Biceps brachii – name movements at 3 joints

Posterior:

Triceps brachii – movements at which joints Anconeus – elbow joint only



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- Radioulnar pronators
 - Pronator teres
 - Pronator quadratus
 - Brachioradialis
- Radioulnar supinators
 - Biceps brachii
 - Supinator muscle
 - Brachioradialis



- "Tennis elbow" common problem usually involving extensor digitorum muscle near its origin on lateral epicondyle
 - known lateral epicondylitis
 - associated with gripping & lifting activities
- Medial epicondylitis
 - somewhat less common
 - known as golfer's elbow
 - associated with medial wrist flexor & pronator group near their origin on medial epicondyle
 - Both conditions involve muscles which cross elbow but act primarily on wrist & hand

- Anterior
 - Primarily flexion & pronation
 - Biceps brachii
 - Brachialis
 - Brachioradialis
 - Pronator teres
 - Pronator quadratus



- Posterior
 - Primarily
 extension &
 supination
 - Triceps brachii
 - Anconeus
 - Supinator



Bicep Brachii Origin and Insertion



Triceps Brachii Origin and Insertion

Triceps Brachii

- Origin
- Long head: infraglenoid tubercle of scapula Lateral head: posterior surface of humerus, superior to radial groove Medial head: posterior surface

of humerus, inferior to radial groove

- Insertion Olecranon process of ulna and fascia of forearm
- Action Chief extensor of elbow
- Innervation Radial nerve (C6, C7 and C8)

