

Radial club hand

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This longitudinal failure of formation is commonly associated with other malformations, for example as part of the VACTERL (abnormal vertebrae, anus, cardiovascular system, trachea, oesophagus, renal system and limb buds) syndrome. The clinical problem depends on whether the thumb is present and functional (Figure 44.32). Treatment is a balance of conservative measures, including physiotherapy and splinting, and judicious surgery to centralise and stabilise the hand and wrist on the single bone forearm. Thumb reconstruction may be technically challenging. In later childhood, forearm lengthening may be considered.

affecting the hand. Anomaly Definition Treatment Extra/accessory Excise/amputate when digits necessary Failure of separation Syndactyly Separation with/ of digits without skin grafting for functional or cosmetic reasons Trigger thumb Release of the A1 (digit) pulley of the flexor tendon sheath Surgical treatment of Abnormal angulation Clinodactyly the delta phalanx if of the digit in the (usually the 5th deformity is progressive radioulnar plane digit) or interfering with hand function Splinting/ Fixed flexion Camptodactyly physiotherapy; surgery deformity of (usually the 5th rarely indicated the proximal digit) interphalangeal joint Figure 44.32 Anteroposterior radiograph of a radial club hand demonstrating a short radius, a deformed ulna and an absent thumb.

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