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Commentary: Unilaterally absent palmaris longus: A golden opportunity

There are two important conclusions from this work. The first is obvious, but the second although subtle is more important.

The obvious conclusion, that can be further strengthened if it is confirmed, is that unilateral absence of the palmaris longus tendon is a highly sensitive and specific physical finding for avoiding the superficial ulnar artery trap.

The second and more important conclusion is that by carefully documenting physical findings and without costly, complicated, high-tech instrumentation, the authors were able to produce high quality clinical research that can be used by any clinician who understands the paper.

With the vast populations of patients seen in India, a golden opportunity exists to mine clinical data and produce similar high quality research.