A Prospective Study of Handcuff Neuropathies

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Prior reports of handcuff-related neuropathies have been retrospective or small series of cases selected for their unusual electrophysiological or historical features. We conducted a prospective 27-month study at a large, urban, teaching hospital of all patients with a complaint of hand numbness, weakness, or paresthesias attributed to overtightened handcuffs. Forty-one patients were evaluated clinically, and electrodiagnostic testing was performed on 18. In the group with electrodiagnostic testing, neuropathies due to overtightened handcuffs were detected in 22 ______________, 12 ____________, and 9 ____________ nerves.

Which peripheral nerve do you think has the highest incidence of neuropathy in this study? Why?