

# **CURRICULUM VITAE**

**H.J.C.R. Belcher, M.B., M.S., F.R.C.S. (Plast)**



**Independent Hand Surgeon**

## **SUMMARY**

I retired in 2021 from working as a specialist Hand Surgeon in the South East of England. Previously, I worked as a Consultant at the Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead where I also served as Director of Plastic Surgery and Governor.

My practice was confined to hand surgery. My clinical interests were degenerative problems such as osteoarthritis, nerve compression and Dupuytren's contracture as well as post-traumatic problems of the hand and wrist. My research interests have include the assessment of outcome after injury including dynamometry and cold intolerance.

In the past, I have been a member of the Council of the British Society for Surgery of the Hand (BSSH). I have served on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Hand Surgery and been the Convener of the Advanced Hand Surgery Course at the Royal College of Surgeons.

I have been involved in medico-legal practice for over twenty years. I prepare about 100 reports each year on personal injury and medical negligence cases. I have completed the Cardiff University Bond Solon (CUBS) Expert Witness Certificate.

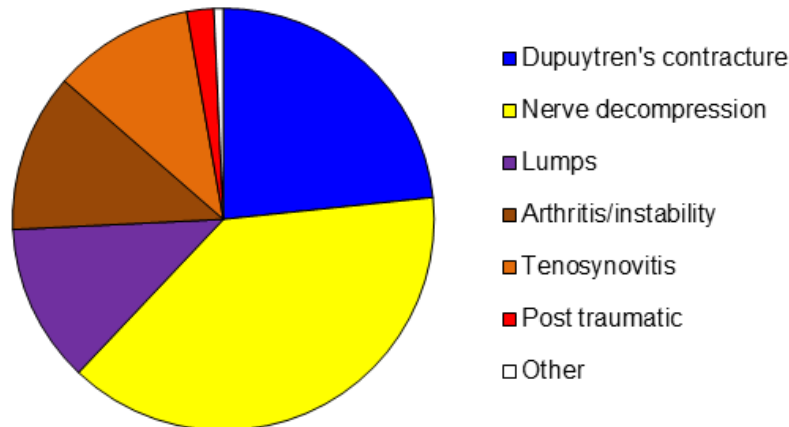
## GENERAL DETAILS

Full name	Henry James Crispin Rashleigh BELCHER		
Office address	Chandler House, High Street, Cowden, Edenbridge, KENT TN8 7JG		
Communication	Office:	01342 850501	
	Email:	hand-surgery@harry-belcher.co.uk	
	Web-site:	www.harry-belcher.co.uk/home.htm	
Nationality	British		
Education	Eton College		
Medical school	Middlesex Hospital		
Qualifications	M.B., B.S. (London)	June 1980	
	F.R.C.S. (England)	July 1985	
	M.S. (London)	June 1990	
	F.R.C.S. (Plastic Surgery)	March 1993	
	Expert Witness Certificate (CUBS)	September 2013	
Registrations	GMC	2656159	
Present appointment	Expert Witness - Hand Surgery		
Previous appointment	Consultant Hand and Plastic Surgeon Queen Victoria Hospital 1993 - 2014		
Last revalidation	20/06/2023		
Insurance	Gallagher 98432094/BELCH-1		

## CASE-LOAD

The diagram below presents numerically the types of surgery I performed in the last five years of my clinical practice (reduced by Covid-19).

**Operations 2016 - 2021 (n=1940)**



## CLINICAL INTERESTS

**Osteoarthritis of the hand** I had a long-standing interest in arthritis of the thumb base and adjacent joints.

**Carpal tunnel release** Management of a wide range of compression neuropathies and I regularly performed endoscopic carpal tunnel release.

**Dupuytren's contracture** My practice included secondary and salvage surgery for recurrent disease referred from other centres.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

My main interest now is the assessment of disability after injury. Present projects are (i) the use and validity of dynamometry in medico-legal practice and (ii) cold intolerance.

## ADMINISTRATION and OTHER APPOINTMENTS

My role of consultant at the Queen Victoria Hospital included a ten year period in clinical management as Lead Clinician for Plastic Surgery, Surgical Director and then Director of Plastic Surgery. I also served as a Hospital Governor.

### National appointments

Member of the Steering Group of the Royal College of Surgeons (RCS) and Department of Work & Pensions (DWP) on "Returning to work" (2008).

Chairman of the Website Working Party, British Society for Surgery of the Hand (2003 - 2005)

Member of Audit and Research Sub-Committee, British Society for Surgery of the Hand (2002 - 2005)

Council Member, British Society for Surgery of the Hand (2002 - 2005)

Convenor, Advanced Course in Hand Surgery, Royal College of Surgeons of England (2002 - 2007)

Editorial Board, Journal of Hand Surgery (1999 - 2002)

Director, Pan-Thames Training Scheme in Plastic surgery (1997 – 2001)

### **Local appointments**

Clinical Director, Queen Victoria Hospital (2010-2013)

Surgical Director, Queen Victoria Hospital (2006-2008)

Hospital Governor, Queen Victoria Hospital (2004-2007)

Lead Clinician, Queen Victoria Hospital (2003-2006)

Training Representative, Queen Victoria Hospital (1995 - 2000)

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

British Society for Surgery of the Hand (BSSH)

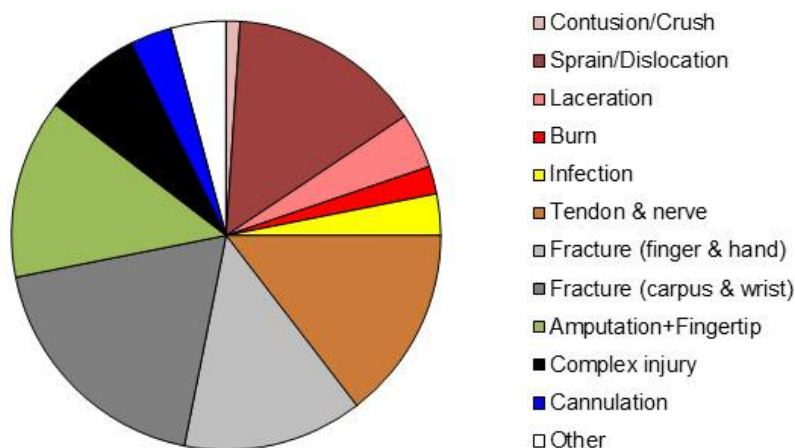
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## **MEDICOLEGAL EXPERIENCE**

I have been involved in medicolegal practice for over twenty years. I undertook medical reports in 97 Claimants in 2022, 20 of whom were negligence cases. I now do few reports outside the upper limb except those relating purely to simple scarring. The case-mixes are shown below.

I have completed the Cardiff University Bond Solon (CUBS) Expert Witness Certificate.

**Injury types (Upper limb)**



## **TEACHING**

I was the instigator and Convener of the Advanced Course in Hand Surgery, which is an annual three-day cadaveric workshop run at the Royal College of Surgeons aimed at Consultants and senior trainees. I remain involved in teaching despite being retired.

# PUBLICATIONS

## Thesis

An investigation of the anabolic actions of biosynthetic human growth hormone after injury by burning. London University, June 1990.

## Books

Immunological aspects. In: Principles and practice of burn management. Settle J (ed). Churchill Livingstone, London, 1996.

## Invited reviews

Taylor E, **Belcher HJCR**. Splinting of the hand and wrist. Current Orthopaedics, 2003,17, 465-74.

**Belcher HJCR**, Clare TD. Hand Infections. Current Orthopaedics 2003, 17, 28-43.

Milroy CJ, **Belcher HJCR**. The Rheumatoid Thumb. Current Orthopaedics 2001, 15, 338-45.

Davey PA, **Belcher HJCR**. Scapho-trapezio-trapezoidal joint osteoarthritis. Current Orthopaedics 2001, 15, 220-8.

## Recent or significant papers

**Belcher HJCR**, Smith H. Extended dynamometry: reference values. Journal of Hand Surgery 2019, 44, 196-202.

**Belcher HJCR**. Functional and symptomatic assessment of medico-legal claims after upper limb injuries. The Medico-Legal Journal 2017, 85, 83-89.

**Belcher HJCR**. The assessment of grip-strength after upper limb injuries in medico-legal practice. The Medico-Legal Journal 2017, 85, 23-32.

Lambert R, **Belcher HJCR**. Improved communication of complications during the consent process in hand surgery. Hand Surgery 2015, 20, 197-8.

Davey H, **Belcher HJCR**. Cold intolerance assessment – a reappraisal. Hand Therapy 2014, 19, 40-46.

King ICC, **Belcher HJCR**. Cold intolerance following collagenase clostridium histolyticum treatment for Dupuytren's contracture. Journal of Hand Surgery 2014, 39, 808-9.

Mehta S, **Belcher HJCR**. A single-centre cost comparison analysis of collagenase injection versus surgical fasciectomy for Dupuytren's Contracture of the hand. Journal of Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery 2014, 67, 368-72.

Pearl RA, **Belcher HJCR**. Three-dimensional assessment of hand function. Annals of Royal College of Surgeons of England 2013, 95, 421-6.

Shirley R, Cavale N, **Belcher HJCR**. Evaluation of sensory loss to the traumatized arm. Journal of Emergency Medicine. 2011, 41, 675-6.

Sivakumar B, **Belcher HJCR**. The use of the triquetrum as bone graft in total wrist arthrodesis. Journal of Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery 2008, 61, 979-81.

Wraight WM, **Belcher HJCR**, Critchley HD. Deliberate self-harm by insertion of foreign bodies into the forearm. Journal of Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery 2008, 61, 700-3.

Ritchie JFS, **Belcher HJCR**. A comparison of trapeziectomy via anterior and posterior approaches. Journal of Hand Surgery 2008, 33E, 137-43.

Day AR, **Belcher HJCR**. Camouflaging of motor signs in carpal tunnel syndrome. Journal of Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery, 2006, 59, 1130.

Clare TD, de Haviland Mee S, **Belcher HJCR**. Rehabilitation of digital nerve repair, is splinting necessary? Journal of Hand Surgery 2004, 29, 552-6.

Clare T, Hazari A, **Belcher H**. Post-operative splinting to maintain full extension of the PIPJ after fasciectomy. *British Journal of Plastic Surgery* 2004, 57,179-80.

Wallace DL, Latimer MD, **Belcher HJCR**. Stopping warfarin is unnecessary for hand surgery. *Journal of Hand Surgery*, 2004, 29B, 203-5.

Davey PA, **Belcher HJCR**. Effect of coexistent scaphotrapezoidal osteoarthritis on outcome after trapeziectomy. *Scandinavian Journal of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*. 2004, 38, 36-42.

Schonauer F, Varma S, **Belcher HJCR**. Endoscopic carpal tunnel release, practice in evolution. *Scandinavian Journal of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*. 2003, 373, 60-4.

Skillman JM, **Belcher HJCR**. The fate of the distal extensor retinaculum in dorsal wrist procedures for rheumatoid arthritis. *British Journal of Plastic Surgery* 2003, 56, 70-71.

N Horlock, **HJCR Belcher**. Early *versus* late mobilization after simple excision of the trapezium. *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery* 2002, 84B, 1111-5.

Roblin P, **Belcher HJCR**. Optimisation of serial excision. *British Journal of Plastic Surgery* 2002, 55, 537-9.

Misra A, **Belcher HJCR**. A new loop suture tie-over technique for skin graft dressings. *Journal of Hand Surgery* 2002, 27, 129-33.

Bernardis C, **Belcher HJCR**. Retraction suture for proximal interphalangeal joint exposure. *British Journal of Plastic Surgery* 2001, 54, 732-3.

Pereira J, **Belcher HJCR**. A comparison of MCPJ silastic arthroplasty with or without crossed intrinsic transfer. *Journal of Hand Surgery* 2001, 26B, 229-34.

**Belcher HJCR**, Zic R. Adverse effect of porcine collagen interposition after trapeziectomy – a comparative study. *British Journal of Hand Surgery*. 2001, 26B, 159-64.

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**Belcher HJCR**, Varma S, Schonauer F. Endoscopic carpal tunnel release in selected rheumatoid patients. *British Journal of Hand Surgery*, 2000, 25B, 451-452.

**Belcher HJCR**, Nicholl J. A comparison of trapeziectomy with and without ligament reconstruction and tendon interposition (LRTI). *Journal of Hand Surgery* 2000, 25B, 350-6.

**Belcher HJCR**, Pandya AN. Centro-central nerve union for the prevention of neuroma formation after finger amputation. *Journal of Hand Surgery* 2000, 25B, 154-9.

Grant I, **Belcher HJCR**. Injuries to the hand from dog bites. *Journal of Hand Surgery* 2000, 25B, 26-28.

Colville RJI, Nicholson KS, **Belcher HJCR**. Hand surgery and quality of life. *Journal of Hand Surgery* 1999, 24B, 263-6.

Smith AM, **Belcher HJCR**. Endoscopic release of the carpal tunnel, a technical note. *Journal of Hand Surgery* 1999, 24B, 249-50.

Schonauer F, **Belcher HJCR**. Anthropometry and ECTR. *Journal of Hand Surgery* 1999, 24B, 6-8

Dheansa BS, **Belcher HJCR**. Median nerve contusion during endoscopic carpal tunnel release. *Journal of Hand Surgery* 1998,23B, 110-1.

Pandya AN, **Belcher HJCR**. The Chevron technique for skin markings in syndactyly release. *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery* 1998, 101, 808-9.

McCann BG, Logan A, **Belcher H**, Warn A, Warn RM. The presence of myofibroblasts in the dermis of patients with Dupuytren's contracture. A possible source for recurrence. *Journal of Hand Surgery* 1993, 18B, 656-61.

**Belcher HJCR**, Sheldon J, Riches P. An investigation of immunoglobulin subclass function in burned adults. *Burns* 1990, 16, 286-90.

**Belcher HJCR**, Mercer D, Judkins KC, Shalaby S, Wise S, Marks V, Tanner NSB. Biosynthetic human growth hormone in burned patients, a pilot study. *Burns* 1989, 15, 99-107.