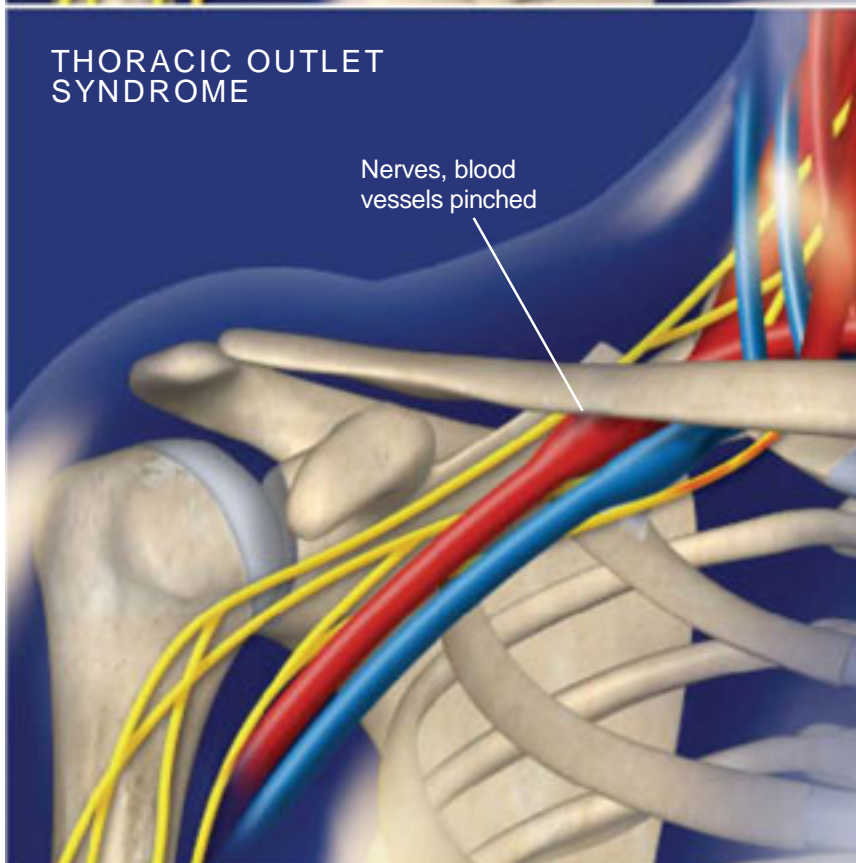
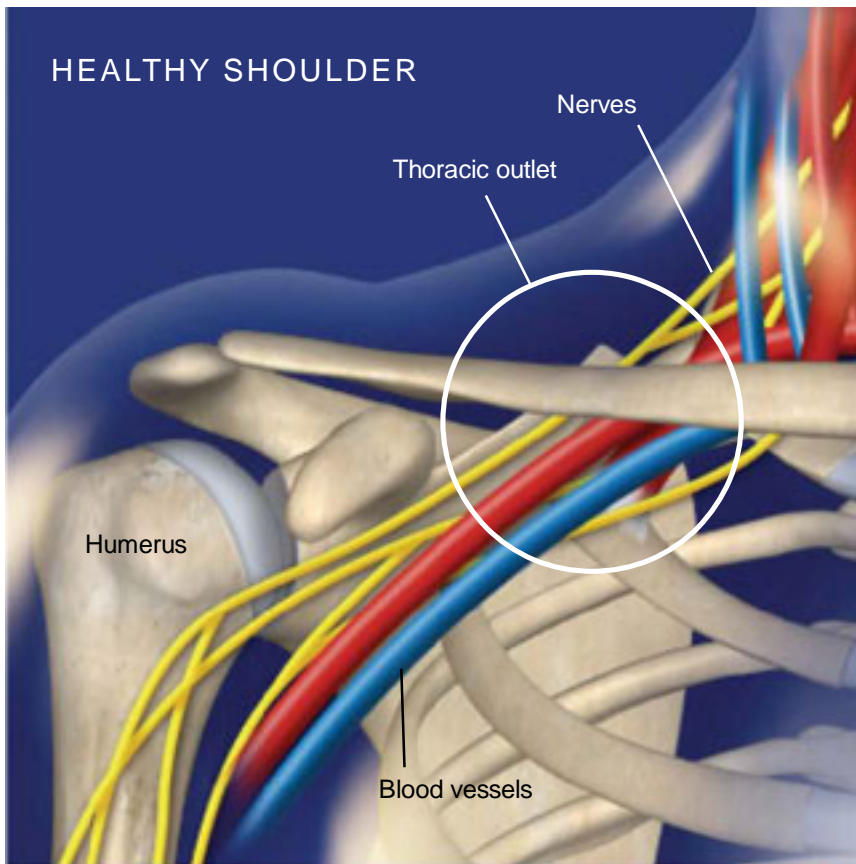


THORACIC OUTLET SYNDROME



Overview

This condition is a compression of the nerves and blood vessels as they pass through the thoracic outlet - the space between the collarbone and the first rib.

Causes

This condition can be caused by an enlargement or a shift in the muscles near the thoracic outlet, a downward shift of the clavicle, an extra rib (the result of a congenital defect), or a disease such as tumors in the upper portion of the lung. This can pinch the nerves and blood vessels.

Symptoms

Symptoms can include pain and numbness in the neck, shoulder, arm or hand. Compressed blood vessels may restrict circulation in the arm, causing discoloration and a cool feeling in the arm and hand.

Treatment

Treatment options can include anti-inflammatory medications, physical therapy, and exercises that can correct bad posture. At times, surgery may be needed.