

# Correlation of joint stiffness and stiffness of the skin and the prevalence of carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS).

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To clarify the aetiology of CTS and prognostic factors for the development of CTS.

<b>Ethical review</b>	Approved WMO
<b>Status</b>	Will not start
<b>Health condition type</b>	Tendon, ligament and cartilage disorders
<b>Study type</b>	Observational non invasive

## Summary

### ID

NL-OMON34953

### Source

ToetsingOnline

### Brief title

Stiffness in relation to carpal tunnel syndrome

### Condition

- Tendon, ligament and cartilage disorders
- Peripheral neuropathies

### Synonym

compression syndrome median nerve, CTS

### Research involving

Human

### Sponsors and support

**Primary sponsor:** Sint Antonius Ziekenhuis

**Source(s) of monetary or material Support:** Ministerie van OC&W

## Intervention

**Keyword:** Carpal tunnel syndrome, Joints, Skin, Stiffness

## Outcome measures

### Primary outcome

Joint stiffness, skin stiffness

### Secondary outcome

Physical activities, body water.

## Study description

### Background summary

The exact aetiology of CTS remains yet unknown. A rise in carpal tunnel pressure is well documented, but why this phenomenon occurs is yet unknown in most patients. There is an absolute or relative narrowing of the carpal tunnel, which results in a compression of the median nerve.

A relation between connective tissue composition and joint stiffness is proven. Possibly this relationship extends to a relation between connective tissue composition, joint stiffness and the prevalence of CTS. We postulate, that a stiffer flexor retinaculum (roof of carpal tunnel) will be less compliant. As a consequence of this stiffer retinaculum the pressure in the carpal tunnel will rise more quickly in stiff patients resulting in CTS-complaints.

In answering this question we will measure the stiffness of the skin and joints in patients with and compare these results with patients without CTS.

### Study objective

To clarify the aetiology of CTS and prognostic factors for the development of CTS.

### Study design

Four groups;  
a CTS-patient group and  
three control groups (tendovaginitis stenosans (TVS), M Dupuytren and traumas to the hand)

are being compared, with regard to:

1. joint stiffness,
2. skin stiffness,
3. physical activities, measured by a standardised questionnaire,
4. body water, measured by multi frequency bio-impedance measurement

## **Intervention**

The CTS group; a normal carpal tunnel release will be performed, with an additional biopsy of the flexor retinaculum. A biopsy of excess skin is taken as well.

The patients with TVS receive regular care by the section of the pulley. A biopsy is taken from excess skin.

In patients with M. Dupuytren a regular fasciotomy will be performed and a biopsy of the skin is taken.

Patients with a trauma to the hand will receive normal care. A biopsy of the skin is taken

## **Study burden and risks**

CTS group, regular out-patient clinic visit on account of CTS complaints. One-off extra visit, taking 20-30 minutes in which a stiffness measurement is done, a questionnaire is taken and a body water measurement is done. The next visit the carpal tunnel release is performed as described above (interventions).

The control groups (TVS, M. Dupuytren and trauma's to the hand) will have their regular out-patient clinic visits. One extra visit, of approximately 20-30 minutes in which a stiffness measurement is done, a questionnaire is taken and a body water measurement is done. Next visit contains the operation. In the group of patients with a trauma to the hand these additional tests will be performed after the treatment.

## **Contacts**

### **Public**

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## Trial sites

### Listed location countries

Netherlands

## Eligibility criteria

### Age

Adults (18-64 years)

Elderly (65 years and older)

### Inclusion criteria

Clinical CTS supported by positive EMG and a positive Boston Questionnaire

### Exclusion criteria

hypo/hyperthyroidea, diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, pregnancy, body mass index (BMI)>30, anatomical deviations in hand or wrist, muscle/skeleton affections.

## Study design

### Design

Study type:	Observational non invasive
Intervention model:	Other
Allocation:	Non-randomized controlled trial

Masking:	Open (masking not used)
Control:	Active
Primary purpose:	Basic science

## Recruitment

NL	
Recruitment status:	Will not start
Enrollment:	40
Type:	Anticipated

## Ethics review

Approved WMO	
Date:	21-06-2010
Application type:	First submission
Review commission:	MEC-U: Medical Research Ethics Committees United (Nieuwegein)

## Study registrations

### Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

### Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

No registrations found.

### In other registers

Register	ID
ClinicalTrials.gov	NCT01081860
CCMO	NL30011.100.10