Examined for eligibility by the neurologists (n=326)

Not randomized (n=111) (n=39)
Not eligible:
- No electrophysiologically confirmed CTS (n=5) (n=1)
- Language barriers (n=9) (n=1)
- Already treated with a splint (n=8) (n=4)
- Previous wrist trauma or surgery (n=4) (n=6)
- Underlying causes of CTS (n=10) (n=10)
- Polyneuropathy (n=2) (n=2)
- Severe thenar muscle atrophy (n=1) (n=1)

Unwilling to participate:
- Strong preference for splinting or surgery (n=23) (n=8)
- Other reasons (n=10) (n=2)

Examined for eligibility by the research physiotherapists (n=215)

Randomized after informed consent (n=176)

Allocated to surgery (n=87)
Did not receive intervention according to protocol (n=14)

Follow-up and analysis:
- 1 month (n=80)
- 3 months (n=78)
- 6 months (n=77)
- 12 months (n=73)
- 18 months (n=68)*

Allocated to splinting (n=89)
Did not receive intervention according to protocol (n=13)

Follow-up and analysis:
- 1 month (n=88)
- 3 months (n=86)
- 6 months (n=84)
- 12 months (n=83)
- 18 months (n=79)**