Reviewer's report

Title: Risk factors for operated carpal tunnel syndrome A multicenter population-based case-control study

Version: 1 Date: 2 February 2009

Reviewer: Andrew CF Hui

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- Major Compulsory Revisions

The database was a surgical one; how representative was this of CTS in general – what are the criteria for decompression? does it mean the same as severe CTS?

The findings are undermined by the small number of patients that were studied (considering also this is a condition that affects 5% of the population and this collaboration involved 13 centres). In some categories there were as few as n=3 (white collar men) or 5 (the number of metal workers); this is reflected in the large CI (eg 4.7 –122) for some variables. I think that looking at over 10 variables with such a small sample size is statistically unsound.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests’