Reviewer's report

Title: Which clinical tests of sensory and motor function are most responsive in patients undergoing carpal tunnel decompression?

Version: 2 Date: 25 August 2011

Reviewer: Ronit Wollstein

Reviewer's report:

Is the question posed by the authors well defined? yes
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described? yes
3. Are the data sound? yes
4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? yes
5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? yes
6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated? yes
7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished? yes
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? yes
9. Is the writing acceptable? yes

This is a well written and interesting study that looks at objective outcome measures for the evaluation of carpal tunnel release. Since this is a commonly performed surgery, there is merit to being able to objectively evaluate its results. This is especially true in light of the fact the nerve conduction tests and electromyograms do not usually revert back to normal following surgery and therefore are not useful in postoperative evaluation. Perhaps emphasis of the relevance of the study should be added in the introduction and or discussion.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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