Reviewer's report

Title: Diabetes is not a risk factor for the carpal tunnel syndrome

Version: 2  Date: 10 April 2014

Reviewer: Russell Gelfman

Reviewer's report:

This is a case-control study of all patients with CTS seen between January 2011 and July 2012 and unmatched controls seen with a diagnosis of HNP between the same dates.

Major Compulsory Revisions

For those not familiar with the Isala clinics, a brief description of the setting and patient population would be helpful. Who is referred to the clinic and why? Is everyone in the community with CTS and HNP referred here? We need to know this in order to assess the possibility of referral bias.

The CTS group appears to contain patients with both Type 1 and Type 2 DM. The control group only contains patients with Type 2 DM. Type 1 and Type 2 DM are thought to be two different diseases. Those with Type 1 DM should either be excluded or the control group needs to have additional patients with Type 1 DM and this needs to be analyzed as a separate potential risk factor. The present analysis would suggest that both Type 1 and Type 2 are not risk factors for CTS and this would be misleading.

Please explain why only patients who had NCS were included in the study. Did all of the patients with HNP have NCS?

There is no "gold standard" for the diagnosis of CTS (line 64).

Please describe the reasons for excluding 468 CTS patients and 171 HNP patients. Which criteria were not met?

Please explain why a random sample of controls wasn't used?

Minor Essential Revisions

Consider "after adjusting for possible confounders" instead of "using more possible confounders" in line 33.
"and" in place of "en" in line 98
"individual" instead of "individually" in line 99.
"and" instead of "as" in line 167

Discretionary Revisions
In the discussion, you could expand further on which previous studies examined or controlled for these risk factors and whether or not this might have resulted in conclusions similar to the current study instead of just referring to the systematic review.

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

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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.