Reviewer’s report

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

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Reviewer: Elisabeth Chroni

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Major Compulsory Revisions

The authors of the submitted manuscript examined the relation between diabetes mellitus and carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS). The topic is clinically significant since CTS is the commonest mononeuropathy resulting in considerable morbidity and many work-loss days.

The methodology used is appropriate and the discussion relevant to the manuscript’s aim.

However, there are few issues that need clarification.

The reason for using a control group that was mismatched for sex, age and individuals’ number with the study group is unclear to me. It would be preferable (and less statistically complicated) to use a control group matched for sex and age at least.

The gold standard of electrophysiological examination for CTS is not mentioned. Did they include patients based only on clinical symptoms, without neurophysiological confirmation? (line 85). How one can be sure that the symptoms were actually due to CTS and not to other conditions (musculoskeletal disorders, radiculopathies)? Did the authors exclude patients with other neuropathies (i.e. alcohol abuse, or hypothyroidism)? What were the criteria used to recognize CTS superimposed on diabetic polyneuropathy?

It would be interested to know the result for DM type I and II separately. We totally agree with the authors that obesity which is a predisposing factor for CTS could be the underlying factor that connects DM type II with CTS. If this is the case, then only DM type I would not be related to CTS.

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