Reviewer's report

Title: Carpal tunnel syndrome and the use of computer mouse and keyboard A systematic review

Version: 1 Date: 8 January 2008

Reviewer: Thomas J Armstrong

Reviewer's report:

The paper is a meta study that examines epidemiological studies relating to carpal tunnel syndrome and keyboard work. I suspect that many readers will find this review of recent epidemiological studies useful. One of the strengths of this work is that it looks at low force and high repetition work which are generic qualities of keyboard work not just keyboard studies. Although it looks at some of the studies of the pathomechanics -- notably studies of inter carpal canal pressure, it does not talk about a general, the paper does not really probe the underlying pathogenesis of carpal tunnel syndrome in particular the role of the finger flexor tendons and flexor synovitis. In this regard, I am disappointed that the authors did not talk about any of the early literature by investigators such as George Phalen and others who first talked about the contribution of work to CTS and the pathomechanics. Models are desperately needed to interpret the findings of epidemiological studies so that the findings and they should at least be discussed. The authors should see the 1999 and 2001 NRC reports on work-related musculoskeletal disorders.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

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.