

## **IS THE CARPAL TUNNEL SYNDROME (CTS) AN OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE?**

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**Purpose:** The purpose of this study is the correlation of CTS with the profession of the patients.

**Material and method:** We examined 680 patients (421 men, 259 women - aged 21 to 73 years) during the last three years. We used a questionnaire and clinical examination and we performed nerve conduction studies and electromyography (EMG) bilaterally. Questions of number of working hours, kind and changes of work and other activities, were included.

**Results:** 297 out of 421 women (70, 5%), had positive EMG findings for CTS. Among them 156 were mainly engaged in the housekeeping, 92 were doing manual work and 49 had office occupation. 211 out of 259 men (81, 4%) had positive EMG findings for CTS. Among them 151 were engaged in manual work, 43 were office workers and the rest had other professions. Totally, 508 patients had positive EMG findings for CTS. In 194 of them (38, 1 %), there was a direct correlation between the presence of CTS and their sort of profession while in 314 patients (62%) such a correlation was not verified.

**Conclusion:** In the majority of patients with CTS (62%), the presence of CTS is correlated with factors such as extra work, sudden changes in their work, intensive work etc., rather than the sort of their main profession.