**Baker NA, Livengood HM. Symptom severity and conservative treatment for carpal tunnel syndrome in association with eventual carpal tunnel release. J Hand Surg Am. 2014;39(9);1792-8.**

PMID: 24909563

Design: secondary analysis of data from a previously published randomized clinical trial

Purpose of study: to identify factors associated with failure of conservative treatment and the need for later surgery among 96 patients with CTS initially treated with splinting and lumbrical muscle stretching

Reasons not to cite as evidence:

* Although taken from a randomized trial, the patients studied were a convenience sample for purposes of conducting a secondary analysis of the trial participants’ risk factors for later referral to surgery
* The logistic regression model which was used to identify specific risk factors had an overall goodness-of-fit which was poor, meaning that there was disparity between the model’s prediction of surgical cases and the patients who actually proceeded to surgery

Information which can be taken from the study:

* Baseline symptom severity was a predictor of eventual surgery
* Patients who received additional conservative treatment (such as injection, orthosis, medication) after completing the splinting and lumbrical muscle stretch intervention were more likely to proceed to surgery than patients who did not have additional conservative treatment
* These conclusions are non-controversial and are only marginally informative, but it would be difficult to do much better given the limited number of cases (n=21) for which the logistic model was estimated