**Ly-Pen D, Andreu J L, Millan I et al. Comparison of surgical decompression and local steroid injection in the treatment of carpal tunnel syndrome: 2-year clinical results from a randomized trial. Rheumatology (Oxford) 2012; 51(8):1447-54.**

PMID: 22467087

Design: followup report of a previously published randomized clinical trial

Purpose of study: to compare the effectiveness of steroid injection versus carpal tunnel release in the treatment of CTS

Reasons not to cite as evidence:

* The study is a continuation of a previous study (Ly-Pen 2005) which randomized patients to steroid injection versus surgery, and that study was not adequate for evidence because of high attrition and a lack of functional outcome measures
* Since the 2005 study, the lost to followup continued, such that the 24-month visit had 31% attrition in the surgery group and 42% attrition in the steroid group
* Group comparisons become very problematic when loss to followup is this high

Reference:

Ly-Pen D, Andreu J-L, et al. Surgical Decompression Versus Local Steroid Injection in Carpal Tunnel Syndrome. Arthritis Rheum 2005;52(2):612-619.