**Stahl S, Vida D, et al. Systematic review and meta-analysis on the work-related cause of de Quervain tenosynovitis: a critical appraisal of its recognition as an occupational disease. Plast Reconstr Surg. 2013;132(6);1479-91.**

PMID:24005369

Design: systematic review of observational studies

Purpose of study: to investigate a relationship between de Quervain disease (dQD) and repetitive, forceful, or ergonomically stressful work

Reasons not to cite as evidence:

* The authors have done a commendable job of searching the literature for evidence would resolve issues surrounding work causation of dQD
* However, the available evidence is not of sufficient quality to answer the research question
* The bulk of the literature predates and was included in the already-dated NIOSH Handbook of 1997 on musculoskeletal disorders and workplace factors, with dates of 1995 and earlier
* The only observational study published after 1995 was Healy et al 2011, which was an online computer survey targeting two groups of physicians: endourologists and psychiatrists, who presumably differed with respect to the performance of procedures involving prolonged operating times, sustained awkward hand postures, and repetitive hand movements
  + Although hand symptoms were more common among the responding endourologists than among the psychiatrists, there was only one case of dQD in one endourologist; the other upper extremity problems consisted mainly of paresthesias and musculoskeletal pain
* Therefore, this systematic review updates the literature on workplace factors and dQD to the extent of showing that no useful information has been added to the literature since 1995, and the 1997 NIOSH report, currently cited in the guideline, remains up-to-date

Reference:

Healy KA, Pak RW, et al. Hand problems among endourologists. J Endourol. 2011;25:1915–1920.

PMID: 22004843