# WORK RELATED MUSCULOSKELETAL DISORDERS (WMSDs):

A Reference Book for Prevention

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### **Work Place Injuries**

### Cumulative Trauma Syndrome

Scope of the Problem

Fact: 1.8 million workers report WRMSD each year



Fact: WRMSD account for over 60% of all occupational illnesses / 20 billion annually in workers compensation costs

### **Work Place Injuries**

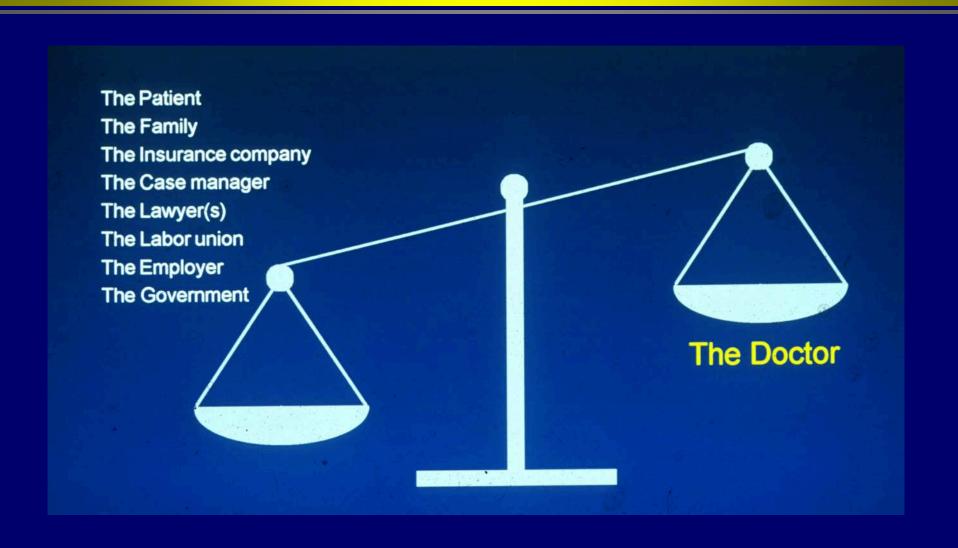
### Cumulative Trauma Syndrome

## Reasons for persistence of the problem...

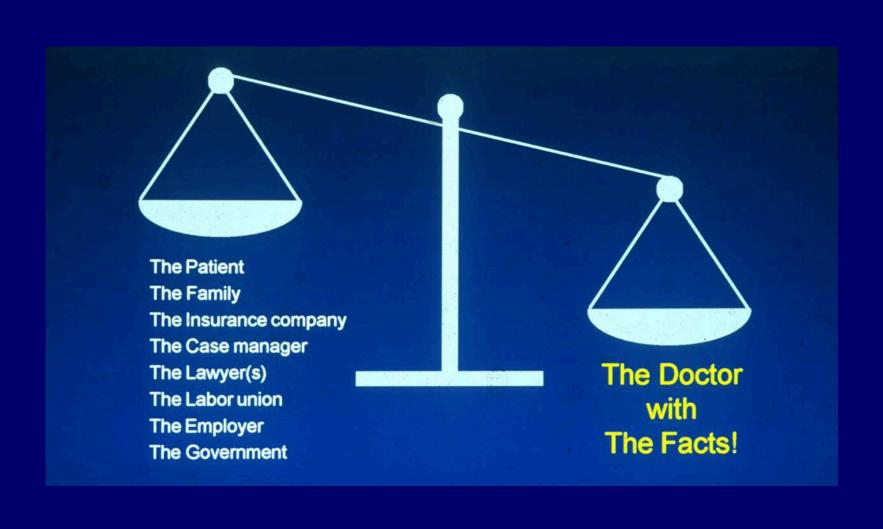
- Causation Unknown
- Production/Profit driven society
- Medical Team shortcomings Medical study defects
- Injury Industry
  Employers/Insurance/Providers
  Attorneys/Legislators/Beurocrats



# Cumulative Trauma Disorder Medical Decision Making



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#### Cumulative Trauma Disorder

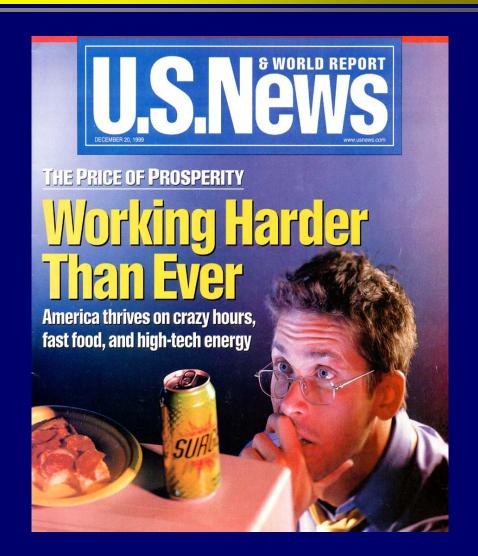
### Carpal Tunnel Syndrome

"Just the facts mam....

We're only interested in the facts...."

Jack Webb

"Dragnet"



### The Medical Report

- The Agent / Force Producing an Effect
- Sufficient Grounds
- Good Reason

• Reasonable in light of known facts

 Force of persuasive reason to a logical mind

### Cumulative Trauma Disorder

### Carpal Tunnel Syndrome

### Epidemiologic Data

- 1. Tobacco Co. Indictment
- 2. Radium Dial Workers
- 3. German Rocket Workers
- 4. Vinyl Chloride Workers
- 5. Miners- Asbestos

### **Causation and Epidemiology**

• Silverstein, B.A. et al. Am J Ind Med, 1987

652 Active Workers / Incidence CTS

0.6% Low Force – Low Repetition

5.6% High Force – High Repetition

•High Force / High Repetition Ration 15 (P < .001) High repetition greater risk then high force

### **Causation and Epidemiology**

• 1988 Hagberg, M.

Epidemiology in Occupational

Health

Amsterdam: Elseviek Sci Pub

1998:15-26

• 1989 Osorioam et al.

CTS Among Grocery Store Workers

#### Cumulative Trauma Disorder

### WORMS

### **Causation and Epidemiology**

• 1991 Gerr, F., et al *Ann Rev Publ Health* 12:543-66, 1991

CTS as Etiologically Related to Occupational Exposures

• 1991 Stock, SR. *Am J Ind Med* 19:97-101, 1991 Workplace Ergonometric Factors and the Development of MSK Disorders / A Meta-analysis

Calif Dept Health Services 1989:61

#### **Major Occupational Factors in Development of CTS**

- 1. Repetitive Motion
- 2. Forceful Grasping
- 3. Extreme Wrist Flexion / Extension
- 4. Mechanical Stress to Median Nerve
- 5. Exposure to Vibration

B.A. Silverstein, et al.

#### NIOSH / Linda Rosenstock

• . . . after review of hundreds of ergonometric studies "we know from current science that MSDs can develop from or become exacerbated by factors associated with work . . ."

# Cumulative Trauma Disorder Medical Decision Making



## L.R. is a 40yr old woman who performs light assembly work for the Sony Co.

- She moves a 40lb TV chassis off the moving line. Performs 5-6 tasks on the chassis using pneumatic tools and then pushes the chassis back onto the line.
- The distance between the moving line and her tool use area is about 2 ft.
- The activity is repeated every 20 sec.

#### L.R Push-pulls:

80lbs

240lbs

14,400lbs

115,200lbs

576,000 lbs

28,800,000lbs

2ft every 20 seconds

6ft every 1 minute

360ft every 1 hour

2880ft every 1 day

14,400ft every 1 week

720,000ft every 1 year

Every year L.R. pushes/pulls 28,800,000lbs 720,000ft

A GMC Suburban weighs 6000lbs 28,800,000lbs = 4,800 Suburbans

L.R. pushed 4,800 Suburbans from San Diego to Los Angeles in 1 year

# Cumulative Trauma Disorder Medical Decision Making



D.A.- packs 60 tacos in a plastic bag and seals the bag with a "twisty" wire. She packs 3 bags per minute.

#### D.A. packs:

180 tacos per minute

10,800 tacos per hour

86,400 tacos per day

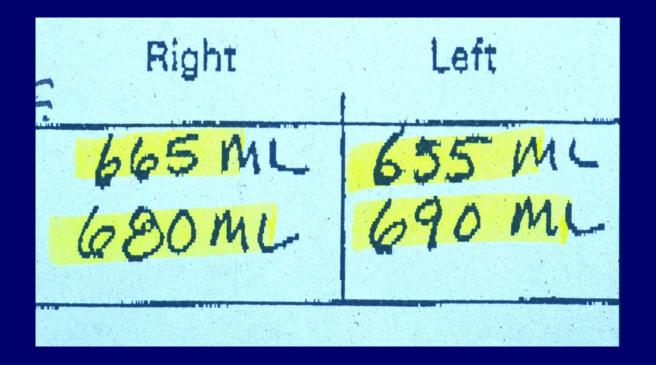
432,000 tacos per week

21,600,000 tacos per year

## Cumulative Trauma Disorder Work Simulation Studies



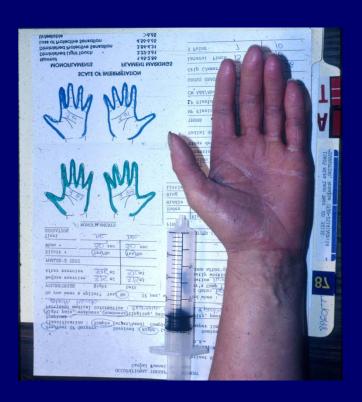
### Volumetric Change with Repetitive Use



10 Minute Work Simulation

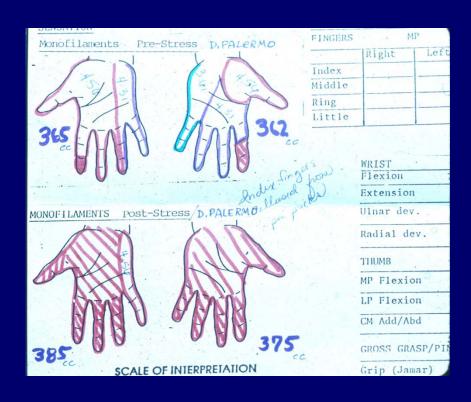
### Dynamic Carpal Tunnel Syndrome

Volumetric
Increase
Associated
With
Sensory Loss



### Dynamic Carpal Tunnel Syndrome

Volumetric
Increase
Associated
With
Sensory Loss



Carpal Tunnel Syndrome Simulation Study



Carpal Tunnel
Syndrome
Simulation Study

Sensory Loss MSE 2.44

Normal Body Posture



Carpal Tunnel
Syndrome
Simulation Study

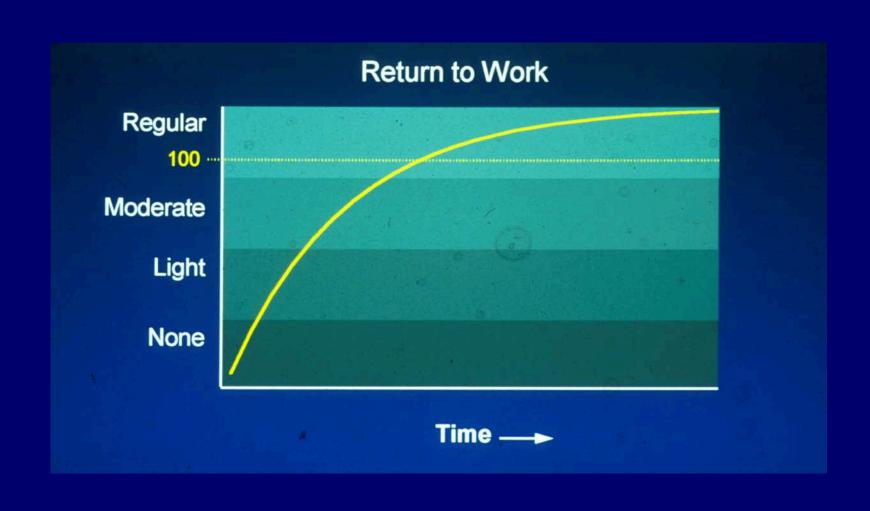
Sensory Loss MSE 3.84 – 5.0

Abnormal Body Posture



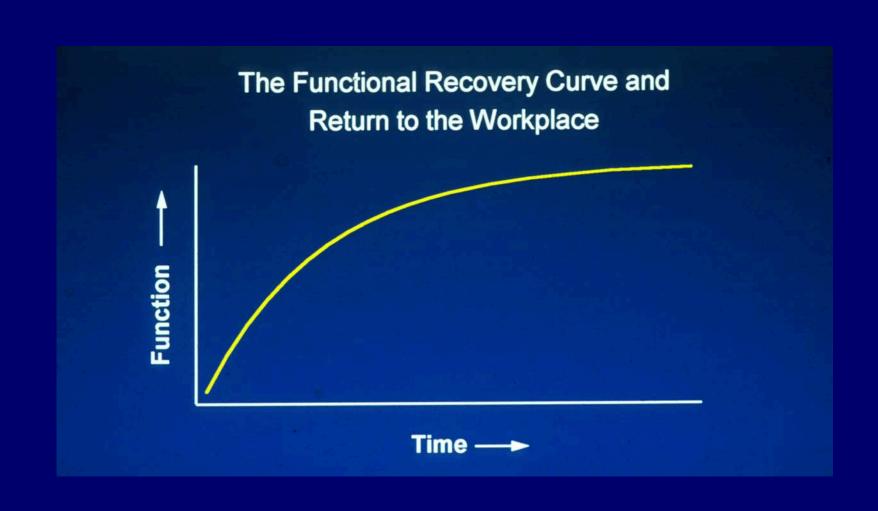
- Cervical strain syndrome
- Cervicobrachial pain syndrome
- Cervical degenerative disc disease
- Cervical cephalagia
- Shoulder bursitis / tendonitis
- Shoulder impingement syndrome
- Bicipital tendonitis
- Epicondylitis medial / lateral
- Tendonitis forearms / wrists
- Tenosynovitis / flexor-extensor / hands

# Cumulative Trauma Disorder Medical Decision Making





# Cumulative Trauma Disorder Medical Decision Making



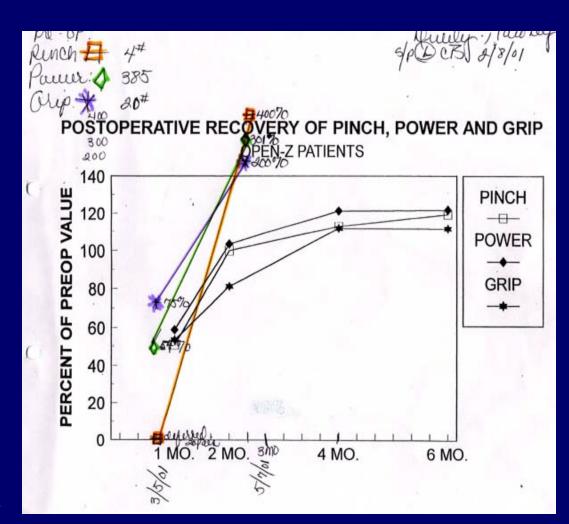




### Work Place Injuries

### Cumulative Trauma Syndrome

When
Can This
Patient
Return to
Work?



**Functional Recovery Curves** 

### **Work Place Injuries**

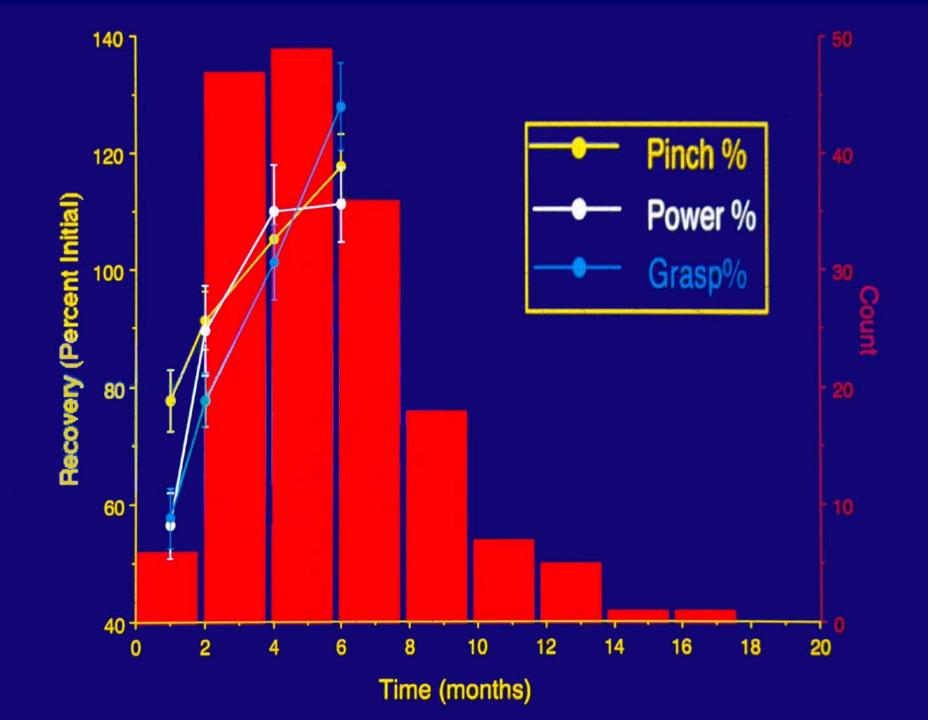
### Cumulative Trauma Syndrome

### Measurement of a Significant Variable

What are we measuring? Why does it matter?

Patient Response
Physician Response
Functional Recovery Measurement
Overall Outcome







- Can we bring it all together?
- Can we devise a reasonable prevention and treatment strategy?
- Research / Education

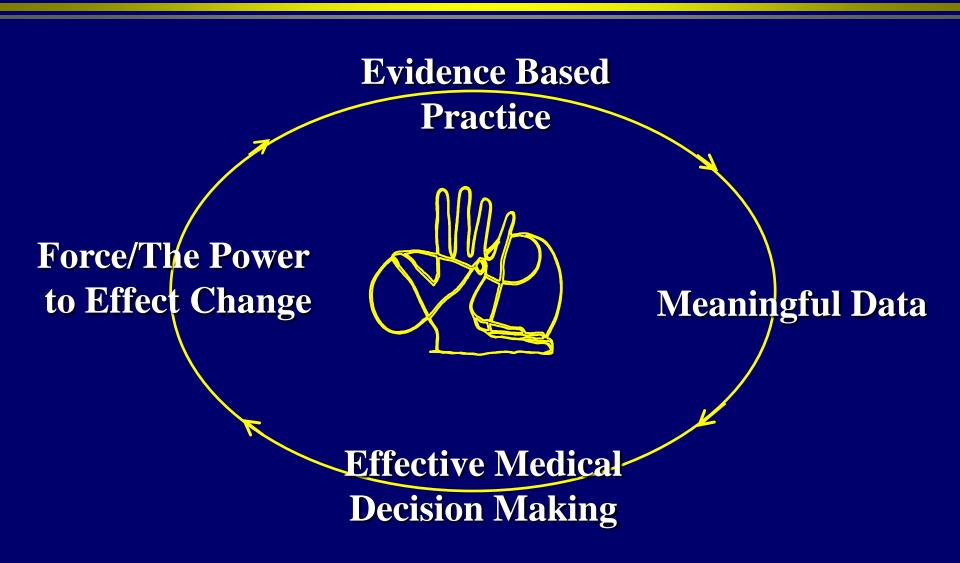
# Cumulative Trauma Disorder Medical Decision Making

- The Patient
- The Family
- The Insurance Company
- The Case Manager
- The Lawyer(s)
- The Labor Union
- The Employer
- The Government

**The Doctor** 

### **Work Place Injuries**

### Cumulative Trauma Syndrome



# Cumulative Trauma Disorder Medical Decision Making

... The Facts will usually allow the doctor to retain control of the treatment process

... The Facts establish authority ...

• Reasonable in light of known facts

 Force of persuasive reason to a logical mind

