

Paralysis of the nerves due to pressure

Definition of causal agent

Prolonged external pressure on anatomical grooves causing nerve injuries as a result of compression, e.g. the use of handheld tools with repeated or sustained pressure against the carpal bones in median nerve compression or carrying heavy weights on the shoulder in compression of the long thoracic nerve.

Definitions

Carpal tunnel syndrome

Compression of the median nerve in the wrist.

Guyon's cavity syndrome

Compression of the ulnar nerve in the wrist.

Cubital tunnel syndrome

Compression of the ulnar nerve in the elbow.

Tarsal tunnel syndrome

Compression of the tibial nerve in the ankle.

The external popliteal nerve

Compression of the nerve at the neck of the fibula.

The long thoracic nerve

Compression of the nerve at shoulder level

Diagnostic criteria

Neurological symptoms from the innervated structures. Diagnosis is confirmed by neurophysiological testing.

Exposure criteria:

Minimum intensity of exposure: Occupational exposure assessed by history and, if possible, study of the working conditions showing evidence of prolonged and repeated direct pressure on the part of the body concerned. Repetitive movements with extreme flexion and extension and exposure to vibration (carpal tunnel syndrome) can worsen the condition (**see also Annex I entry nr. 506.45 on Carpal tunnel syndrome**).

Minimum duration of exposure: From a few hours to several months.

Maximum latent period: Days

Induction period: Hours