

NERVE LESIONS IN THE UPPER LIMB - 11

CARPAL TUNNEL SYNDROME

Aetiology: Anything causing diminution of size of carpal tunnel - inflammation, arthritis, hypothyroidism, idiopathic, tenosynovitis, old fractures. All can lead to compression of median nerve

Site: Under flexor retinaculum in concavity of carpal bones

Result: Paraesthesia/anaesthesia & loss of motor function of thumb, index & middle fingers. BUT preservation of sensation of palm (palmar cutaneous branch of median comes off a few centimetres above carpal tunnel)

Test: Tapping over carpal tunnel may lead to tingling in median distribution in hand. Sensation should be maintained in the radial side of the palm

