Carpal Tunnel Syndrome: A Problem for Manufacturing

Workers in the manufacturing industry have the highest incidence rate of Carpal Tunnel Syndrome at 1.9 injuries per 10,000 workers compared to all other industries with women being 2x more likely to suffer from the complaint than men. It's a significant problem.

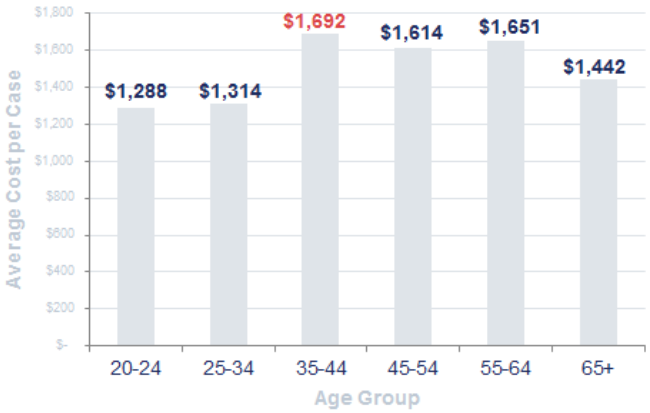
Carpal Tunnel Syndrome and Fractures currently have the highest median days away from work (32 days) followed by repetitive motion injuries (23 days) and amputations (19 days).[1]

MedRisk expert clinical benchmarks specifically show that CTS is a cost driver in the manufacturing industry among 35-44 year olds. Driven mostly by parts assembly workers, the duration of post-operative rehabilitation for this age group is 23 days higher than the rest of the manufacturing population receiving post-operative care (70 days vs 53 days).

25-34 Years	35-44 Years
1. Pain in Joint / Shoulder	1. Pain in Joint / Shoulder
2. Lumbago / Lumbosacral	2. Lumbago / Lumbosacral
3. Lumbar Sprain/Strain	3. **Carpal Tunnel Syndrome**

45-54 years	55-64 years
1. Pain in Joint / Shoulder	1. Pain in Joint / Shoulder
2. Leg Joint Pain	2. Lumbago / Lumbosacral
3. Lumbago / Lumbosacral	3. Leg Joint Pain

Carpal Tunnel drives higher average PT costs for 35-44 years olds



Treatment Trends for CTS

New research from Spain now suggests physical therapy may be equal to surgery in alleviating pain and restoring function for workers suffering from CTS. Treatment strategies used in the study included manual therapies with desensitization maneuvers of the central nervous system. [3]

If the trend towards conservative care and physical therapy encompasses carpal tunnel syndrome, the manufacturing industry may well see an increase in non-surgical physical therapy cases and a decrease in surgical costs.

[1] http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/osh2.pdf
[2] MedRisk Expert Clinical Benchmarks, 2015
[3] https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26281946?dopt=Abstract