Your Weekly Medical Advice by Dr Zhi Su

"Committed to the care of our patients and

euroa medical

Clinic Hours Monday – Friday 8am-6pm Saturday 9am – 5pm Phone (ALL HOURS) **5795 2011**

Emergency clinic

Sundays and public holidays 9am – 11am (in our rooms @ Euroa Health) Phone **5795 0200**

Carpal Tunnel Syndrome

Carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS) is a relatively common condition that causes a tingling sensation, numbness and sometimes pain in the hand and fingers. Usually, these sensations develop gradually and worsen during the night. They tend to affect the thumb, index finger and middle finger.

The carpal tunnel is a narrow passage way in the wrist, which opens into the hand. It is surrounded by the bones of the wrist (underneath) and the transverse carpal ligament (across the top). The median nerve runs through the carpal tunnel and gives feeling to the thumb, forefinger, middle finger and half of the ring finger. Many tendons also pass through this carpal tunnel and if any swelling occurs, the large median nerve can easily be compressed, causing carpal tunnel syndrome.

Anything that causes swelling inside the wrist can cause carpal tunnel syndrome, including repetitive hand movements, pregnancy, arthritis, diabetes and thyroid gland imbalance.

Treatments can include rest for the affected hand; physiotherapy; wearing splints on the affected wrist and hand at night; corticosteroid injections and diuretic medication. Surgery may be required if nonsurgical treatments fails to relieve the symptoms. It may also be used if there is a risk of permanent nerve damage.

We would appreciate your feedback or topics you would like to hear about at business.manager@emfp.com.au