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Abstract

Carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS) is an entrapment neuropathy caused by compression and irritation of the median nerve, which travels through the carpal tunnel in the wrist. Increased fibrosis is a hallmark of the development and pathology of CTS. Different growth factors have been demonstrated to play a potential role in the development of CTS. Studies have described an increase in the expression of growth factors, including Transforming Growth Factor (TGF- β), Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor (VEGF) and interleukins (growth factors for immune and inflammatory cells) in SSCT (sub-synovial connective tissue) in CTS patients. Additionally, SSCT fibrosis is also marked by increased activation of canonical TGF- β second messenger Smads, increased expression of downstream

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