



Study Title: Worldwide Perspectives on Thumb Carpometacarpal Instability: A Survey on Terminology, Diagnostic Workup, and Treatment

Principal Investigator: Neal Chen, MD

This is a research study about improving international understanding and consistency in managing thumb carpometacarpal (CMC) instability.

Purpose of the research: The goal of this study is to characterize worldwide practice patterns among hand surgeons regarding terminology, diagnostic workup, and treatment strategies for thumb CMC instability, with the goal of informing future consensus and research.

Sponsor of the research: Dr. Neal Chen from Massachusetts General Hospital is leading this study. For questions about the study, please contact Dr. Chen at 617-726-4700.

How did you get my name and contact information? You were identified through professional hand surgery societies (FESSH, ASSH, AAHS, IFSSH, APFSSH) via their mailing lists.

Why am I being asked to participate? Hand surgeons internationally are being invited to complete an online questionnaire. We intend to enroll 500–1000 respondents worldwide.

What is involved? If you choose to participate, you will be asked to complete an online questionnaire (~6 minutes) regarding your professional opinions and usual clinical practices in hypothetical case scenarios. While there is no financial compensation, your participation will greatly enhance research and contribute to improved treatments for patients.

What are the risks or discomforts? This study poses low risk. The main discomfort will be the time required to complete the survey (~6-minutes). If the discomfort becomes too much, you can stop at any time. We take extensive precautions to keep your information confidential, though there is always a minimal risk of a confidentiality breach. Your de-identified information will not be used or shared with other researchers, nor will it be used in clinical care. Your information will be kept confidential for the purpose of this research.

What are the benefits to me? You will not benefit directly from taking part in this study. Your participation may help people in the future by improving international understanding and consistency in managing thumb CMC instability.

Sensitive information: No sensitive personal or patient information is collected. No medical records or external data sources are used.

Do I have to participate? Your participation in this research study is voluntary, and you can withdraw at any time. Choosing not to participate will not affect your professional standing, evaluations, or any benefits.

Who do I reach out to with questions?

For questions about the study, please contact Dr. Chen at 617-726-4700. If you want to speak with



someone **not** directly involved in this research study, please contact the Mass General Brigham IRB. You can call them at 857-282-1900.

You can talk to them about:

- A complaint, problem, or concern
- Ask questions, offer input, or obtain information
- Your rights as a research participant