

The Carpal Tunnel and its Contents

This is a narrow enclosed space. Needless to say, if anything in here swells, the median nerve will get compressed. It is the most sensitive structure in the carpal tunnel.

- **The lateral three and a half digits will get diminished sensation**
- **Sensation on the thenar eminence will be spared** because the palmar cutaneous branch splits from the median nerve long before the flexor retinaculum
- The movement of the thenar muscles is controlled by a terminal motor branch of the median nerve, and so the **thenar muscles will atrophy in carpal tunnel syndrome**

