The carpal tunnel syndrome is the most common entrapment neuropathy (about 3% of the adults are affected). It is characterized by pain and paresthesia along the distribution of the median nerve. Thenar muscle atrophy with corresponding muscle weakness is a late manifestation of advanced disease. Electrophysiological tests are helpful in suggesting the diagnosis. An imaging with a magnetic resonance tomography may be used in the diagnosis of atypical cases. Ergonomic manoeuvres, oral steroids and steroidal injections may alleviate symptoms in mild cases. Surgical decompression of the carpal tunnel is the classical treatment of severe cases as well as for those who do not respond to conservative treatment. After surgery patients usually show excellent results. The following article discusses clinical aspects, diagnosis and current therapeutic options.