

Wrist Tendonitis

What is wrist tendonitis?

Tendons are bands of connective tissue that attach muscle to bone. Tendonitis occurs when a tendon is inflamed from overuse. Your wrist moves in many directions, including down, up, in, and out. The muscles and tendons that perform these movements may become overused and inflamed. The muscles and tendons that cross your wrist and attach to your thumb may also become inflamed.

How does it occur?

Tendonitis is a problem caused by repetitive use. Possible overuse activities include throwing, catching, bowling, hitting a tennis ball, typing, or sewing.

What are the symptoms?

You have pain with repetitive activity. The tendon that is inflamed is tender to the touch. You may have swelling around the inflamed tendon.

How is it diagnosed?

Your doctor will review your symptoms and examine your wrist.

How is it treated?

Treatment may include the following:

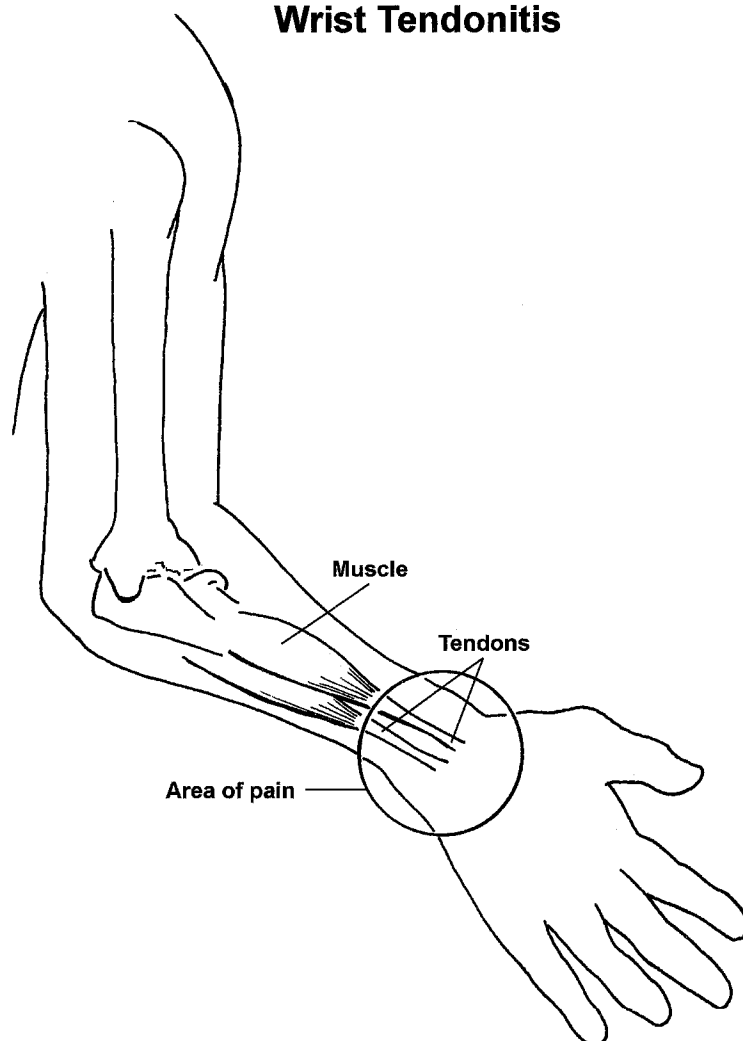
- applying an ice pack for 20 to 30 minutes every 3 to 4

- hours for the first 2 to 3 days or until the pain goes away
- elevating your wrist on a pillow while sleeping or on the back of a chair or couch while sitting
- wearing a splint that immobilizes the wrist or thumb or taping the wrist or thumb

- taking anti-inflammatory medication prescribed by your doctor
- doing stretching and strengthening exercises.

In many cases of tendonitis, the injury occurs because of poor technique in a sporting activity. Your doctor may review your technique and try to help you change it.

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While you are recovering from your injury you will need to change your sport or activity to one that does not make your condition worse. For example, you may need to run instead of play racquet sports. The most important treatment for tendonitis is to change your activity.

When can I return to my sport or activity?

The goal of rehabilitation is to return you to your sport or activity as soon as is safely possible. If you return too soon you may worsen your injury, which could lead to permanent damage. Everyone

recovers from injury at a different rate. Return to your sport or activity will be determined by how soon your wrist recovers, not by how many days or weeks it has been since your injury occurred. In general, the longer you have symptoms before you start treatment, the longer it will take to get better.

You may return to your sport or activity after your wrist injury when the injured wrist has full range of motion without pain. Your doctor may allow you to return to competition with your wrist taped or in a brace. Your injured wrist, hand, and forearm need to

have the same strength as the uninjured side. There must not be any pain when you do activities such as swinging a bat or a racquet or tumbling in gymnastics.

How can I prevent wrist tendonitis?

Tendonitis is caused from overuse. Use proper technique in activities such as throwing, hitting a tennis ball, and typing. You should not continue to do these activities when the warning signs of tendonitis begin.

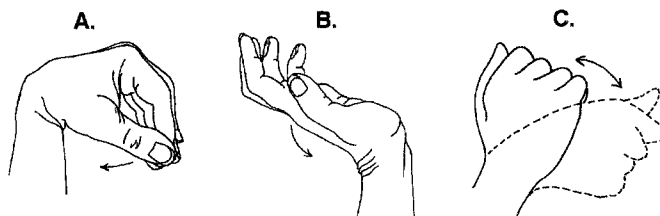
Wrist Tendonitis Rehabilitation Exercises

1. Active range of motion

A. Flexion (forward bending): Gently try to bend your wrist forward. Hold for 5 seconds. Repeat 10 times. Do 3 sets.

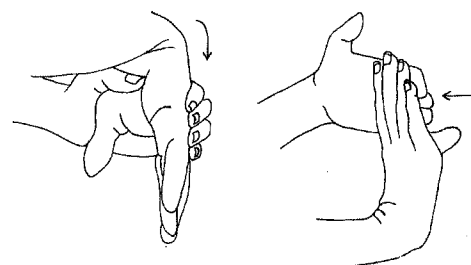
B. Extension (backward bend): Gently bend your wrist backward. Hold this position for 5 seconds. Repeat 10 times. Do 3 sets.

C. Side to side: Gently move your wrist from side to side, holding it for 5 seconds at each end. Repeat 10 times. Do 3 sets.

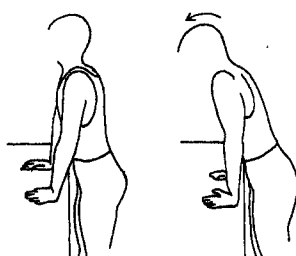


Active range of motion

2. Stretching: With your uninjured hand, help to bend your wrist down by pressing the back of your hand and holding for 15 to 30 seconds. Next, stretch it backward by pressing the fingers in a backward direction and holding for 15 to 30 seconds.



Stretching



Wrist extension stretch

3. Wrist extension stretch: Stand at a table with your palms down, fingers flat, and elbows straight. Lean your body weight forward. Hold this position for 15 to 30 seconds.

4. Wrist flexion stretch: Stand with the back of your hands on a table, palms facing up, fingers pointing toward your body, and elbows straight. Lean away from the table. Hold this position for 15 to 30 seconds.



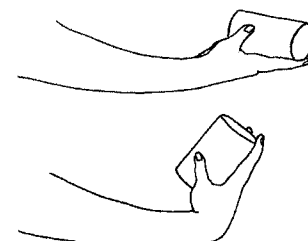
Wrist flexion stretch



Pronation and supination of the forearm

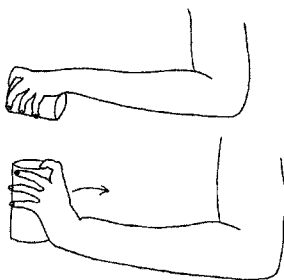
5. Pronation and supination of the forearm: With your elbow bent 90 degrees, turn your palm upward and hold for 5 seconds. Slowly turn your palm downward and hold for 5 seconds. Make sure you keep your elbow at your side and bent 90 degrees throughout this exercise. Repeat 10 times.

6. Wrist flexion exercise: Hold a can or hammer handle in your hand with your palm facing up. Bend your wrist upward. Slowly lower the weight and return to the starting position. Repeat 10 times. Do 3 sets of 10. Gradually increase the weight of the can or weight you are holding.



Wrist flexion

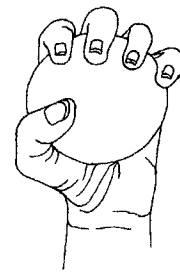
Wrist Tendonitis Rehabilitation Exercises



Wrist extension

7. Wrist extension: Hold a can or hammer handle in your hand with your palm facing down. Slowly bend your wrist upward. Slowly lower the weight down into the starting position. Repeat 10 times. Do 3 sets of 10. Gradually increase the weight of the object you are holding.

8. Grip strengthening: Squeeze a rubber ball and hold for 5 seconds. Repeat 10 times.



Grip strengthening