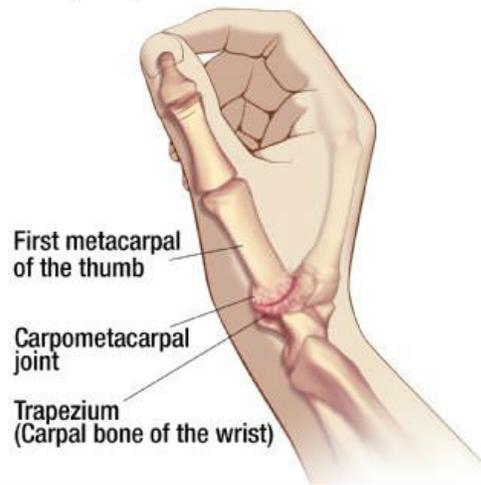


BASAL JOINT ARTHRITIS

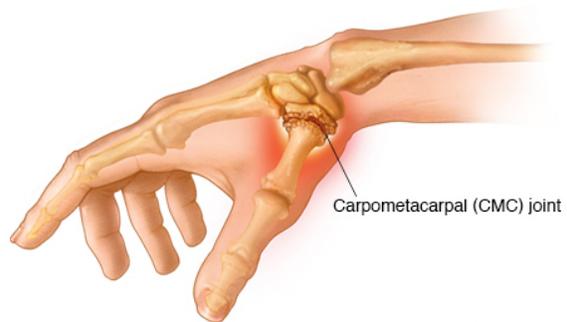
The **carpometacarpal (CMC) joint**, also known as the **basal joint**, is found in the lower part of the thumb. The CMC joint is commonly affected by arthritis. The joint becomes inflamed and slowly wears out. Pinching and grasping become very painful, sometimes impossible.

Symptoms can improve with use of a soft brace and taking anti-inflammatories as directed during your clinical visit.



SURGICAL TREATMENT

The joint is so irritated and swollen that pinching and grasping are difficult and painful. Common surgeries for this condition include excisional arthroplasty and artificial joint replacement.



During the surgery, the disease joint is removed. It is replaced with a tendon graft (a piece of tendon from your arm or wrist). With the tendon graft in place, you'll have less pain and be able to use your thumb again.

