

# MEDIA ALERT

1-10-08

## *STOP CUTTING OFF FINGERS!*

That's the plea from the founder of The Hand Center in Houston, Texas where Dr. Randy Lopez will perform an operation to preserve the length of a man's finger instead of cutting back the bone to the next joint and closing an amputation stump.

A worker cut the end of his finger off with a power saw. He went to a local emergency room and like many with this injury was ultimately recommended an operation to further shorten the finger and close the skin. Trained hand surgeons commonly perform a procedure called a cross-finger pedicle flap to preserve length reconstructing the finger. Unfortunately, hospital Emergency Rooms are not required to get patients with hand injuries to **hand fellowship trained HAND SURGEONS**. General, plastic, and orthopedic surgeons (even those that are Board Certified) often treat hand injuries even though they may not have the expertise that a **HAND/MICROVASCULAR surgeon** receives in special hand fellowship training. There is no such legislative requirement and the medical profession itself has not insisted on getting patients with hand injuries to the most qualified medical professional. According to Michael G. Brown, M.D., Founder of The Hand Center in Houston, Texas and Brown Hand Center in other parts of the country, "hand surgeons (still comparatively few in number compared to other specialties) used to be rare but in 2008 in the nation's 4<sup>th</sup> largest city there should be no excuse for a patient with a hand problem not to get to a hand fellowship trained hand surgeon. Whether the patient comes to The Hand Center, Brown Hand Center, or to another qualified hand fellowship trained hand surgeon, that should be the standard of care insisted upon. Patients trust doctors and often just don't know who they should be seeing. I would hope that through coverage of The Brown Procedure endoscopic carpal tunnel on TV, Radio, Billboards, and magazines the public at large comes to understand there exists a real specialty in hand surgery and a well trained, highly skilled surgeon can affect the rest of a person's life whether following an injury, suffering from carpal tunnel, arthritic hand deformities, or birth defects affecting the hand. That's my goal.....to raise the standard of hand care everywhere. The Hand Center and Brown Hand Center are known for the endoscopic techniques we developed for carpal tunnel (THE BROWN PROCEDURE) and trigger finger (BETR...Brown Endoscopic Trigger Finger) but all hand and upper extremity problems are cared for at The Hand Center and Brown Hand Center." **For interviews with Dr. Brown, the technique's developer, or with Dr. Lopez call 713 586 3120 or 281 435 0235 (THE HAND CENTER, HOUSTON, TEXAS). For photos of cross finger pedical flap procedures go to:**

**[www.thehandcenter.com](http://www.thehandcenter.com) [www.carpaltunnel.com](http://www.carpaltunnel.com) [www.brownhandcenter.com](http://www.brownhandcenter.com)**

**From any of the above go to:**

**For patients > Other hand problems > Injuries/reconstruction > cross finger pedicle flap.**

