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K - Wiring of The Hand

Information For Patients

Fracture & Orthopaedic Clinic Arrowe Park Hospital

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What is a K-wire (Kirschner Wire)?

A K-wire is a steel pin which is commonly used in bone operations. It is often used to hold broken bones together.

When are K-wires used in hand injuries?

They are used when broken bones and dislocated joints in the hand and fingers require to be fixed and held in position

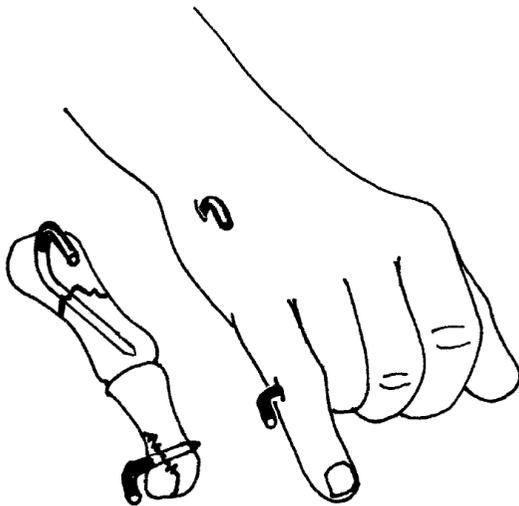


Diagram showing K-wires in the hand and finger

What to expect after the operation:

The K-wires are often left sticking out of the skin, but they will be covered by a dressing or by a plaster. The K-wires will usually be removed between 3-6 weeks after the operation. This is performed in the clinic, and may be accompanied by mild and brief pain.

Care after the operation:

You will be informed by your surgeon what you should and should not do whilst the K-wires are in your hand. It is important that you keep your hand clean and dry to prevent infection. Un-splinted fingers should be exercised regularly.

Risks of the procedure:

Infection can occur around the pin-sites. It should be suspected if pain and swelling increases after the operation and the dressings become smelly. In this case please phone the

**Fracture Clinic
at**

**Arrowe Park Hospital
0151 604 7069**

between 9am and 11am

Mon – Fri

or

**contact your GP
outside these hours.**

Stiffness of the hand and fingers may occur after removal of the wires. If this is the case extra physiotherapy will be required to regain movements.

Overgranulation of the pin sites may occur. This is where the pin site wounds heal with extra scar tissue. This will require special treatment with a silver nitrate stick over a period of weeks.