

Further information can be obtained from:

NHS 111	Dial 111
Or contact your GP	
Bluebell Ward, Lister Hospital, Stevenage	01438 284008
Children's Day Services	01438 286315
Children's Emergency Department, Lister Hospital, Stevenage	01438 284333
Children's Assessment Unit, Lister Hospital	01438 284900
Urgent Care Centre QEII Hospital, Welwyn Garden City	01707 247549
Patient Advice and Liaison Service	01438 285811

Removal of Metalwork

Child Health Patient Information Leaflet

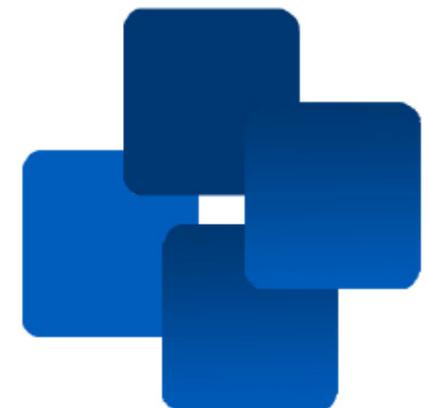


The information in this leaflet was taken from www.nhs.uk

www.enherts-tr.nhs.uk

Date of publication: September 2012
Author: Patient Leaflet Information Group
Reference: Version: 2
Review Date: April 2019
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You can request this information in a different format or another language.



Introduction

The purpose of this leaflet is to explain the removal of metalwork and aftercare.

Removal of Metalwork

Removal of metalwork involves taking out screws, plates, nails or pins from healed bone that were inserted during a previous operation. Removal of metalwork is a simple operation which can take place as a day case. Usually the same cut from the initial operation is used to prevent further scarring.

Reasons for Removing Metalwork

Metalwork may be removed if it starts to present problems such as pain or reduced movement.

What to expect in hospital

You and your child will be seen by the surgeon and the anaesthetist prior to the operation. They will check that your child is well and confirm that the metalwork needs to be removed. This may require a further x-ray which will be checked by the surgeon before the operation takes place.

After the Operation

Following the operation your child's pain will be monitored and controlled with medication. Gentle movement of the affected limb will be encouraged and the wound site observed for any bleeding. Your child will be offered a drink on returning to the ward area and may eat shortly after if they are feeling well enough.

Care at Home

Wound Care

Your child's wound site will be covered with a dressing. Depending on the dressing the nurses/surgeon will advise you when to remove it.

Your child's wound site should be observed for signs of infection, for example; excessive swelling, redness, discharge and pain.

If your child develops a temperature with any of these signs they should be checked by your GP.

Pain Relief

Regular pain relief is advised. Paracetamol should be given every four to six hours for the next few days and Ibuprofen every six to eight hours. Read the bottle for the correct dose for your child according to their age.

Eating and Drinking

Your child may eat and drink normally.

Nausea and Vomiting

Do not worry if your child feels sick or vomits once or twice after leaving hospital. If this occurs stop giving food for about an hour and try small amounts of water or diluted juice every 20 minutes then a light diet such as dry biscuits or toast.

If your child keeps vomiting please call for advice or attend your nearest A&E.

Activity

Due to the general anaesthetic your child must rest for the next 24 hours with adult supervision. Your surgeon will advise you as to when your child may participate in sport and P.E.

Follow Up

Any follow up appointment to see your surgeon will be arranged by the hospital.

If your child needs a wound check by your GP we ask that you make that appointment yourselves.