

Patient Information

Fingertip Injury

Children's Services



Introduction

The purpose of this leaflet is to help you manage your child's fingertip injury.

What is a fingertip injury?

Fingertip injuries are commonly caused by crushing or laceration with a sharp object. These injuries can involve displacement of the nail/nail bed. Occasionally there may be an accumulation of blood under the nail (subungual haematoma) which would need to be drained in A&E.

Treatment

Many injuries will need to be treated in hospital and may even require surgery to repair the wound. At the hospital, paracetamol or other painkillers will be given to your child to relieve pain. You can continue this at home.

Aftercare

Parents should be aware that recovery from a fingertip injury varies, depending on the severity of the injury. In some cases physiotherapy may be required together with the use of a hand splint. Depending on the required management for the injury you will be given advice from the physiotherapist and/or occupational therapist.

Pain Management

The injury will be painful and your child will require painkillers. The medical and nursing staff in the Children's A&E will advise you regarding doses and types of painkillers to give your child. For certain injuries your child may need to be prescribed painkillers that cannot be purchased at the chemist.


Advice on caring for the injury at home.

- If your child has a dressing to cover the wound ;
- Keep it dry and as clean as possible.
- Contact Children's A&E if the dressing becomes wet or falls off.
- Encourage exercise of all the fingers unless otherwise advised.
- Keep affected hand elevated to reduce excessive swelling.
- Avoid playing with sand and water.

If there is intolerable oozing, bleeding or pain, contact Children's A&E immediately.

Further information

NHS 111


 111

or Contact your GP


NHS website - www.nhs.uk

Useful Telephone Numbers

Bluebell Ward, Lister Hospital
Stevenage

 01438 284008

Children's Emergency Department
Lister Hospital

 01438 284333

Urgent Care Centre, New QEII
Welwyn Garden City

 01707 247549

Community Children's Nursing Team

 01438 288370