



Carpal Bone Fracture

Doncaster Royal Infirmary
Armthorpe Road
Doncaster
DN2 5LT

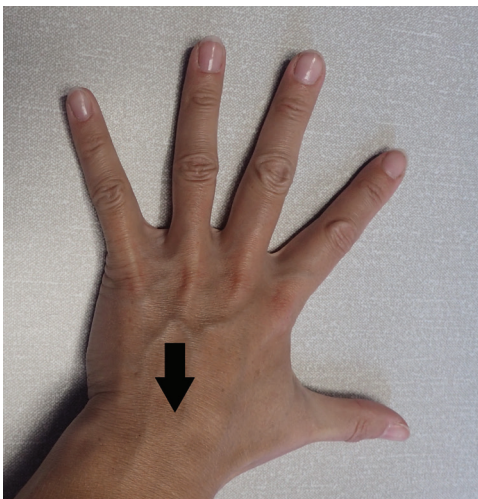
Tel: 01302 644665

You will be followed up by the consultant.

This is a follow-up letter to your recent telephone consultation with the fracture care team explaining the ongoing management of your injury. Your case has been reviewed by an Orthopaedic Consultant (Bone Specialist) and Fracture Care Extended Scope Physiotherapist.

You have broken one of your carpal bones (small bones at the bottom of the hand- see picture). The orthopaedic consultant has assessed this as a small stable fracture.

- Healing:** This normally takes approximately 4-6 weeks to heal. The cast is to help the bones heal you will need it for 6 weeks. If you are having problems or discomfort with the cast please get in touch.
- Pain and swelling:** Take pain killers as prescribed.
- Using your hand:** You may use the hand as pain allows.
- Follow up:** We will arrange for an appointment in 4-6 weeks to remove the cast and to be seen by one of the hand team.



If you are worried that you are unable to follow this rehabilitation plan,

Or, if you are experiencing pain or symptoms, other than at the site of the original injury or surrounding area,

Or, have any questions, then please phone the number at the top of this letter for advice.

Please follow the Management plan below:

Weeks since injury	Rehabilitation plan
0-6	✓ Your arm will be in a cast for 4- 6 weeks.
6-12	✓ Appointment to remove the cast and be seen by the hand team. ✓ The injury has healed. ✗ Heavy tasks or lifting may be uncomfortable.
12	✗ If you are still experiencing significant pain and swelling then please contact the Fracture Care Team for advice.

Advice for a new injury:

Cold packs:

A cold pack (ice pack or frozen peas wrapped in a damp towel) can provide short term pain relief.

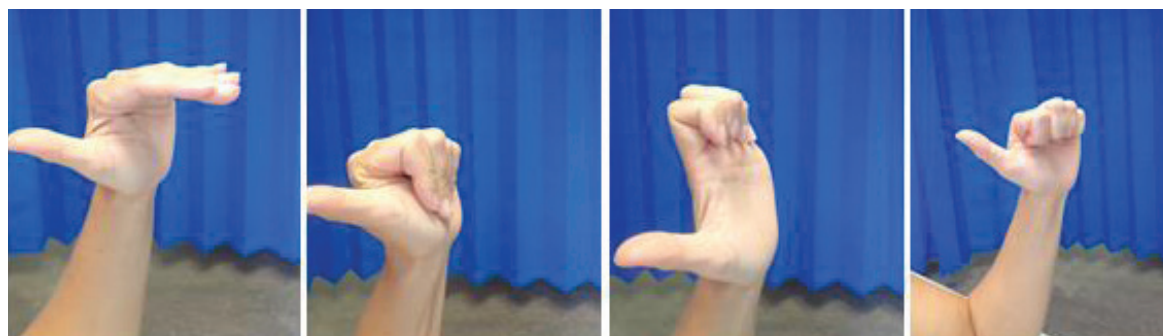
Apply this to the sore area for up to 15 minutes, every few hours ensuring the ice is never in direct contact with the skin.

Smoking cessation

Medical evidence suggests that smoking prolongs fracture healing time. In extreme cases it can stop healing altogether. It is important that you consider this information with relation to your recent injury. Stopping smoking during the healing phase of your fracture will help ensure optimal recovery from this injury.

For advice on smoking cessation and local support available, please refer to the following website: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk> or discuss this with your GP.

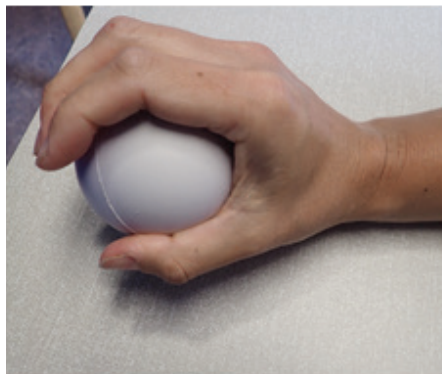
Exercises



Finger exercises:

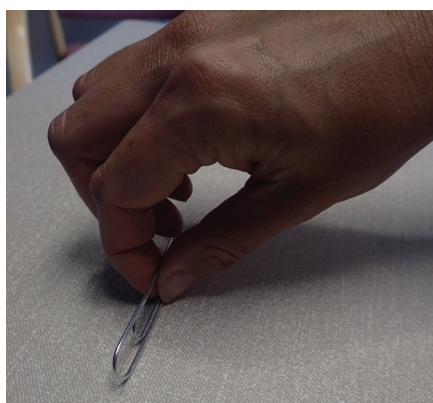
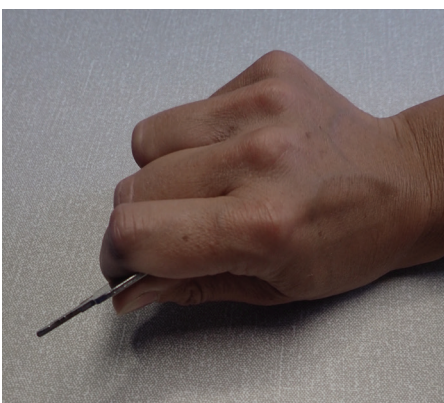
Keep your fingers moving whilst you are in the plaster.

Exercises

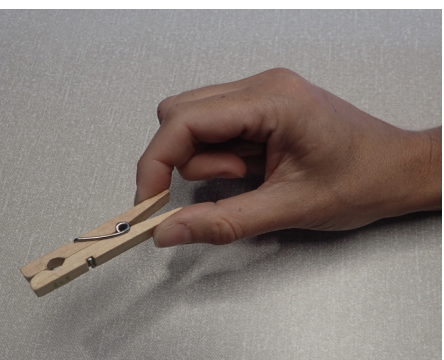
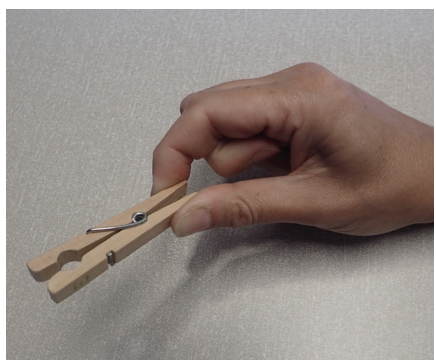


Squeeze a soft ball, playdough, plastic bottle or similar item.

Do this for 30-60 seconds.



Practice hand movements, here are some examples; turning keys, picking up small objects, doing crafts or anything that involves using your hands.



Practice your pinch grip; squeeze objects such as clothes pegs.