



Soft Tissue Injury of the Hand

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You will not be routinely followed up.

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 sustained a soft tissue injury to your hand. This means there is no bony injury but you may have hurt the structures around them.

Healing: This normally takes approximately 2-4 weeks to heal. If you have been given a splint this is for comfort and doesn't affect the rate of healing.

Pain & swelling: Take pain killers as prescribed.

Using your hand: You may use the hand as pain allows.

Follow up: This type of injury heals well and you will not need a follow up.



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.

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.

Please follow the Management plan below:

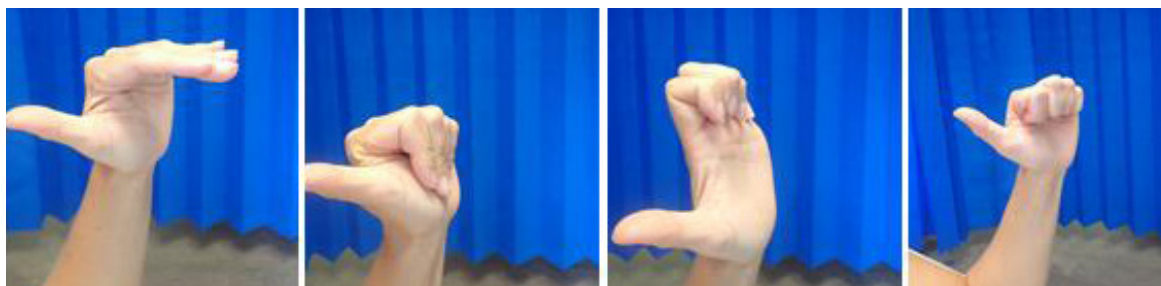
Weeks since injury	Rehabilitation plan
0-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Use the splint for comfort✓ You can take the splint off for sleeping if you prefer✓ You can gently start the exercises below to help get normal movement back in your hand.
2-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Try to start doing normal activities without the splint (start gently)✓ The injury has healed.✗ Heavy tasks or lifting may be uncomfortable.
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✗ Heavy tasks or lifting may cause discomfort

Advice for a new injury:

Cold packs:

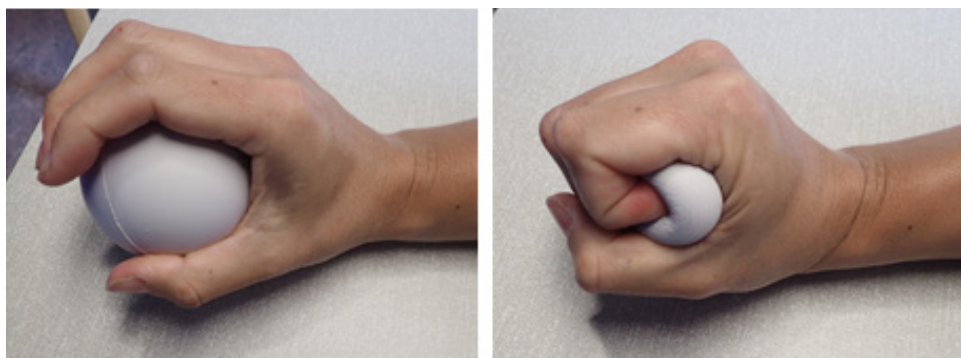
A cold pack (ice pack or frozen peas wrapped in a damp towel) can provide short-term pain relief. Apply this to the sore area for up to 15 minutes, every few hours. The ice must never be in direct contact with the skin.

Exercises



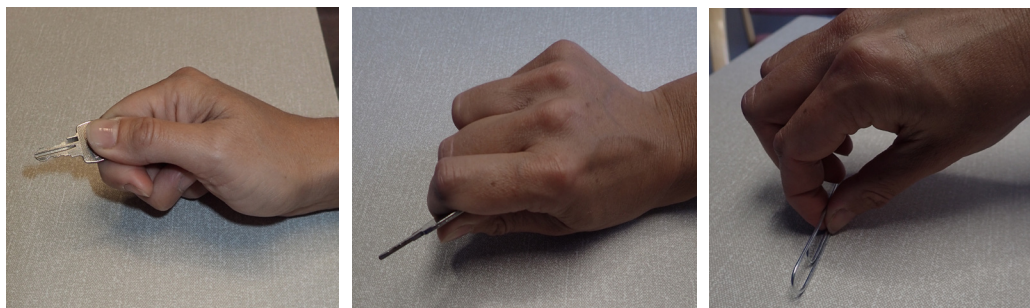
Finger exercises:

Keep your fingers moving whilst you are in the plaster.

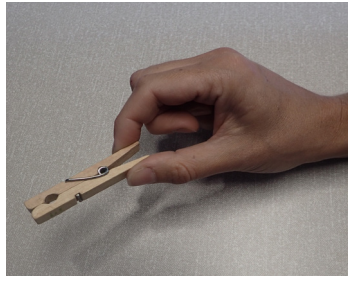
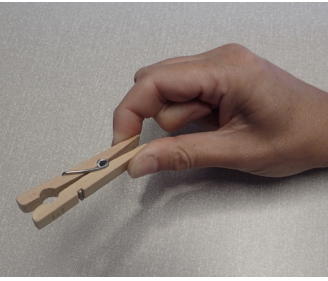


Squeeze a soft ball, playdough, plastic bottle or similar item.

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.