

# Minor Nail Surgery Patient Information



**Nail Surgery** - This minor procedure is carried out to treat painful toenail conditions. All or part of the affected toenail is removed. A local anaesthetic is used to ensure that the toe is 'numb' throughout the procedure. Once the nail has been removed, a chemical is applied to permanently stop the nail from growing back.

**Success Rate** - Nail surgery has a general success rate of about 85 -90%. In a small number of cases, all or part of the removed nail will grow back.

**Healing** - In most cases, it will take between 6 and 12 weeks for the toe to heal after surgery fully. During this time, the toe will need regular dressings, which most people can manage at home.

**Complications** - Nail surgery is generally a very safe procedure and most people do not experience any problems. The possible complications include excessive bleeding, an unexpected reaction to the anaesthetic, and postoperative infection. There may be some pain or discomfort following the procedure once the anaesthetic wears off.

**For further information see:**

[www.nhs.uk/conditions/Ingrown-toenail](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Ingrown-toenail)

[The Royal College of Podiatry](http://www.rcpod.org)



## On the day of your procedure

- Eat your normal breakfast/lunch.
- Remove any nail polish.
- Make sure you have arranged a lift home.
- Bring a pair of roomy sandals or slippers.
- Bring any medicines that you normally use throughout the day e.g. inhalers/heart tablets etc.

## Children

A person with parental responsibility should accompany children under 16.

### After the procedure: -

- You should not drive immediately after surgery.
- Rest your foot as much as possible.
- If you experience any pain, take your normal painkiller.
- Keep your dressing on and keep it dry until for 48 hours unless you have been allocated a follow-up appointment.
- If you experience any problems, e.g. severe swelling or redness, severe pain, excessive bleeding, contact the Podiatry Department on 01423 542300 / [hdfp.podiatry@nhs.net](mailto:hdfp.podiatry@nhs.net), (9.00 am-5.00 pm Mon to Fri), or out of these hours, contact 111/ A & E or your own GP.