

OS06lite Dupuytren's Fasciectomy

Further information

You can get more information about this procedure from www.aboutmyhealth.org

You can get information locally from the Senior Nurse at the Horder Centre,
St John's Road, Crowborough,
East Sussex, TN6 1XP.
Tel: 01892 665577
info@hordercentre.co.uk

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www.rcsed.ac.uk



This document will give you information about a Dupuytren's fasciectomy. If you have any questions, you should ask your GP or other relevant health professional.

What is Dupuytren's disease?

Dupuytren's disease is a condition where scar-like tissue forms just beneath the skin of the fingers and the palm of the hand. Over time, this fibrous tissue can contract and force one or more fingers to curl up into the palm. This is known as Dupuytren's contracture (see figure 1).

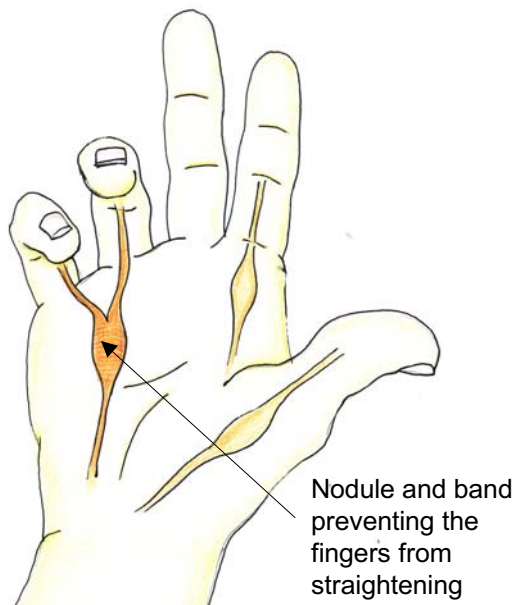


Figure 1

Dupuytren's contracture causing deformity of fingers

What are the benefits of surgery?

After surgery, you should be able to make better use of your hand and straighten the affected fingers more.

Are there any alternatives to a Dupuytren's fasciectomy?

Your surgeon may be able to perform a needle aponeurotomy. This may have a higher chance of the contracture coming back sooner.

The most effective treatment for Dupuytren's contracture is surgery.

What does the operation involve?

A variety of anaesthetic techniques are possible. The surgery can range from simply cutting a fibrous band in the palm of your hand to removing all of the affected skin and replacing it with skin grafts.

What complications can happen?

1 General complications

- Pain
- Bleeding
- Infection of the surgical site (wound)
- Scarring

2 Specific complications

- Injury to an artery in the finger
- Incomplete correction of the Dupuytren's contracture
- Stiffness of the finger joints
- Numbness
- Wound-healing problems
- Severe pain, stiffness and loss of use of the hand (Complex Regional Pain Syndrome)

How soon will I recover?

You should be able to go home the same day.

Regular exercise should help you to return to normal activities as soon as possible. Before you start exercising, you should ask a member of the healthcare team or your GP for advice.

It can take some time for your hand to settle down after surgery.

Dupuytren's disease will probably come back in most people eventually, but will not always need further surgery.

Summary

A Dupuytren's fasciectomy should give you a worthwhile improvement in the function of your hand.

Acknowledgements

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This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you.