

Nail Surgery Procedures - Understanding your options

It is important to us that you feel fully involved in decisions relating to your care. Sometimes it can be difficult to make the decision that is right for you due to the confusing number of options available. We have produced this guide to nail surgery to help you make an informed decision about your treatment.

Please use the questions on the other side to make sure you understand what to expect from your treatment. All of these procedures are carried out under local anaesthetics. All medicines carry a small risk of adverse reaction, and local anaesthetic is no different. These risks are very, very small and we want you to be reassured that all of our staff are fully trained in dealing with any reaction that may occur.

Having your whole nail removed

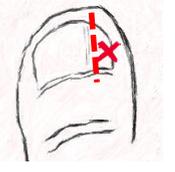


What will happen to me?

- Your toe will be numbed using a local anaesthetic
- A tourniquet will be applied to stop your toe bleeding during the operation
- Your toenail will be completely removed
- A chemical called phenol may be applied. The table on the right explains your options.

With phenol 	Without phenol 
<p>Advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your whole nail isn't expected to grow back This is the simplest procedure to carry out <p>Disadvantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your toe will take a bit longer to heal due to the larger wound Your procedure will take a little longer due to the time taken to apply phenol Your toe is more likely to become infected after the operation - especially when an infection was there before <p>Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Around 10% of patients experience some regrowth, although very few require a further operation 	<p>Advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your operation won't take as long Your wound will heal more quickly than with phenol being applied <p>Disadvantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your toenail will grow back again <p>Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a very high chance that your problem will happen again

Having one side of your nail removed

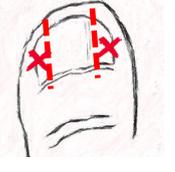


What will happen to me?

- Your toe will be numbed using a local anaesthetic
- A tourniquet will be applied to stop your toe bleeding during the operation
- One side of your toenail will be completely removed
- A chemical called phenol may be applied. The table on the right explains your options.

With phenol 	Without phenol 
<p>Advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The part of your nail that has been removed isn't expected to grow back You are able to keep the rest of your nail Heals more quickly than having your whole nail off <p>Disadvantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a slightly more complicated procedure Your toe will still take a bit longer to heal than if phenol isn't applied Your procedure will take a little longer due to the time taken to apply phenol Your toe is more likely to become infected after the operation - especially when an infection was there before <p>Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Around 10% of patients experience some regrowth, although very few require a further operation 	<p>Advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your operation won't take as long Your wound will heal more quickly than with phenol being applied <p>Disadvantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your toenail will grow back again <p>Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a very high chance that your problem will happen again

Having both sides of your toenail removed



What will happen to me?

- Your toe will be numbed using a local anaesthetic
- A tourniquet will be applied to stop your toe bleeding during the operation
- Both sides of your toenail will be completely removed
- A chemical called phenol may be applied. The table on the right explains your options.

With phenol 	Without phenol 
<p>Advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The parts of your nail that have been removed aren't expected to grow back You are able to keep the middle part of your nail Heals more quickly than having your whole nail off <p>Disadvantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a much more complicated procedure It is not possible to perform this procedure on all toenails - many nails just aren't broad enough to remove both sides Sometimes the central part of the nail can separate from the nail bed during the operation, and the whole nail may have to be removed Your toe will still take a bit longer to heal than if phenol isn't applied Your procedure will take a little longer due to the more complicated process and the time taken to apply phenol Your toe is more likely to become infected after the operation - especially when an infection was there before <p>Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Around 10% of patients experience some regrowth, although very few require a further operation You may need the central part of the nail removed at some point in the future if it becomes separated from the nail bed during the operation 	<p>Advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your operation won't take as long Your wound will heal more quickly than with phenol being applied <p>Disadvantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your toenail will grow back again Sometimes the central part of the nail can separate from the nail bed during the operation, and the whole nail may have to be removed <p>Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a very high chance that your problem will happen again



NEED?

1

Do I really need this test, treatment or medicine?



BENEFIT?

2

What are the benefits to me?



RISK?

3

Are there any risks or side effects?



CHOICE?

4

How can I improve my condition or health?



IF I DON'T?

5

What will happen if I don't do anything?