

Healing process for partial nail removal

Information for patients who have had nail surgery



Early stage (day 1 – 7 approximately)

The area around your wound may start to look red which is a direct result of the chemical applied during the nail surgery procedure.

Salt footbaths and a change of dressings are recommended every 1-2 days as directed by your clinician.

Intermediate stage (day 7 – 28 approximately)

The wound looks at its worst, with moderate amounts of exudate (discharge) visible on and possibly through your dressing.

You should continue with salt footbaths and changing your dressings every 1-2 days as directed by your clinician.

You may begin to leave the wound exposed for a few hours following the salt footbath with your foot **elevated** before applying your dressing. If you do not have time for this in the morning carry out this regime in the evening.

Final stage (day 28 – 35 approximately)

Continue with the salt footbaths and changing dressings.

Your wound will begin to dry out and a crust may form on the surface of the wound.

Allow 2 or 3 clean dressing changes which are free of exudate (discharge) before stopping the salt footbaths and discontinuing applying dressings.

The remainder of the crust (if still visible) will proceed to fall off over the next few days or weeks. Do not be tempted to pick at this area as it may prolong the healing process.

You may notice a slight discolouration at the side of the nail plate; this will resolve in approximately a year.

If you have any concerns throughout the healing process please contact:

0131 536 1627

