

Information leaflet for parents/carers

Removal of Skin Tags and Accessory Digits: A Parent's Guide



This leaflet gives you information about what to expect when your child comes to the hospital for treatment and after care at home.

Your child has been referred to the Plastics department because:

They have a small skin tag usually in front of their ear/s but sometimes they can occur on other parts of the body like the hands. The Plastic Surgery Team can remove these safely by using a local anaesthetic.

What is the cause of these conditions?

These form as the baby is growing in the uterus within a few weeks of you becoming pregnant. Other family members may also have had skin tags or accessory digits. Please do not worry as there is nothing that can be done to prevent their formation.

What will happen to these conditions if left untreated?

The extra digit on your child's hand can twist and become red and sore. When this happens the extra digit will eventually drop off and leave a little bump on your child's skin.

What do I need to know before I bring my child into hospital?

Before you bring your child into hospital please make sure:

- Your child is wearing comfortable or loose clothing
- Your child has had their nappy changed
- Your child has been given a feed 2 hours before the procedure
- You bring a bottle of milk, dummy or their favourite toy as this will help keep the child comfortable whilst they have their procedure

What happens on the day of the procedure?

You and your child will need to arrive promptly to the hospital ward stated on your child's hospital letter. The plastic surgeon will come and assess that your child's skin condition is suitable for surgery and answer any questions you may have about the procedure.

What will happen if my child does not require any surgery?

The Plastic surgeon will explain to you that not all extra digits or skin tags are suitable for removal under local anaesthesia as they can be more complex. If that is the case they will offer you a further follow-up appointment when your child is older to make a further assessment.

What does the procedure involve?

The surgeon will take your child to theatre where the procedure will be carried out. A small amount of local anaesthetic will be injected into the area that is going to be operated on to numb the area. Your child may find this a little uncomfortable and may be a little upset for a few seconds. The theatre team will make sure your child is comforted and pain free for the procedure.

The surgeon will then remove the extra digit or skin tag and stitch the skin using a dissolvable stitch (this does not need to be removed). A small dressing will then be applied to your child's skin, to keep the wound clean and protected when you are at home.

How can I help my child at home after the procedure?

- We would advise you to keep the dressing dry for 5 days. Should this come off, please do not worry. Keep this clean with simple soap and water.
- After 5 days you can remove the dressing and bathe your child. This will help to keep this clean and free from infection.
- Do not worry if you can see some little stitches in your child's skin as this is normal and they can take up to 6 weeks to dissolve.

- The wound will normally heal after 2 weeks. Gently moisturise and massage the area with a simple moisturiser that does not have any perfume in. This needs to be done twice a day until the scar has faded. It is advisable that you also apply sun block to protect the area from the sun.
- We will not necessary need to review your child in clinic following the procedure, but would be happy to see you should you have any concerns.

Is there anything I should be looking out after the procedure?

- Your child becomes generally unwell
- A rash on your child's skin
- Redness, swelling or weeping around the wound site

If you notice any of these signs of infection please seek advice by contacting our secretaries on tel: 0121 333 8285/8136. They are available during the hours of 8am – 5pm. Or you can visit your General Practitioner. If it is out of hours (after 5pm) please attend your local or our Accident and Emergency Department.

Please use this space to write down any notes or questions you might have.

We have updated our Privacy Notices in line with the data protection legislation (General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)/Data Protection Act 2018. For more information about how we use your personal data please visit our website at:

<https://bwc.nhs.uk/privacy-policy>

Further Information, Help and Advice

This information leaflet was produced using the latest evidence and is based upon current practice. Further details are available upon request.

If you have any questions or need any further information please contact the Plastics Secretaries on 0121 333 8285 or 0121 333 8136.

This leaflet has been produced by The Plastics Department.

Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust
Steelhouse Lane Birmingham B4 6NH
Telephone 0121 333 9999
Fax: 0121 333 9998
Website: www.bwc.nhs.uk

Author: Sarb Kaur, Physician Associate

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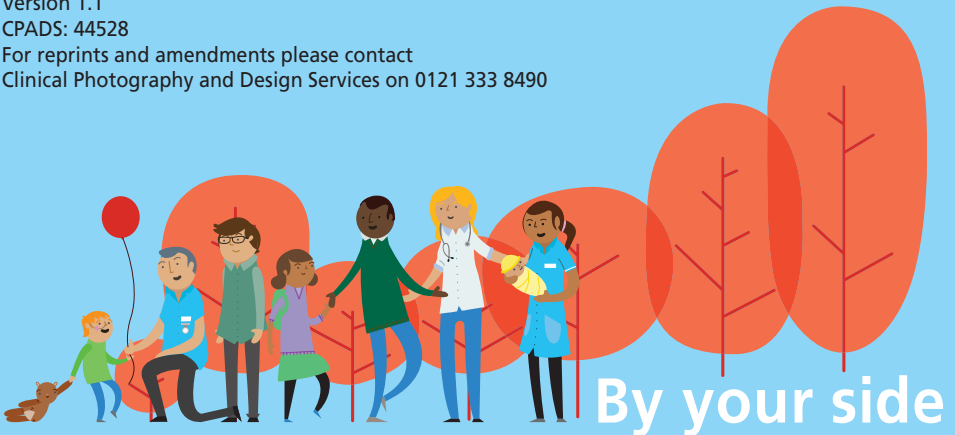
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By your side