

Patient information sheet – Syndactyly release

Why is Syndactyly release done?

Syndactyly release is a surgical procedure done to correct Syndactyly, where there is abnormal fusion between 2 or more fingers of the hand. This is a congenital problem. It is sometimes associated with other deformities of the face, skull and other organs and can be a part of a syndrome. This deformity can cause significant disturbances in hand function and can cause restriction of proper growth of the hand in the growing years of your child.

What tests are needed?

A thorough examination by a pediatrician is required to rule out other congenital problems.

When is the surgery usually done?

The surgery is usually done before 1 year of age so that the hand can function normally when your child is developing.

How many days of hospital admission is required?

It is a daycare procedure and your child will be discharged from the hospital on the same day of surgery.

What does the surgery involve?

Your child will be seen by our pediatric anaesthetist before surgery and will be admitted on the day of surgery. The surgery is conducted under general anaesthesia and takes about 2-3 hours. The fusion between fingers is released and the wound thus created will be resurfaced using skin grafts. This skin graft is usually borrowed from the groin. These grafts are fixed using absorbable sutures. In addition to the dressing, your child will also have a splint to support the hand. Your child will be given some pain killers and antibiotics and discharged on the same day evening.

What happens after surgery?

There will be a follow up appointment after 1 week to check the wound. Your child might need hand physiotherapy for 3-6 months after surgery.

What complications can I expect?

Infection, bleeding, swelling, bruising and pain are common complications that can happen. The pain will be managed by our acute pain service team while in the hospital. Scar will be there on the hand, but usually settles down well with scar treatment. Graft loss is a rare complication. In that case, the skin grafting might have to be repeated.

I have a few more questions. What do I do?

Kindly write to us at contact@drvvybhavderaje.com. We will be happy to reply to any of your questions and concerns.

Disclaimer: This information sheet is for you to get a general idea about the condition and surgery. This is in no way a substitute for a formal consultation with your doctor.

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