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## Toe nail surgery

### What happens?

Depending on the procedure you have agreed with the doctor, either the whole or a sliver of the nail and of the nail bed is cut out on the side that is tender and swollen and a chemical (Phenol) applied to the nail bed to prevent this part of the nail from re-growing. After the operation the nail is either completely removed or always a little narrower.

### What will I feel?

The toe is made numb with an injection of local anaesthetic on either side of your toe. This stings when given but during the procedure you will feel pressure in the area you're being operated on but you will not feel pain.

### Risks

Bleeding in the first 12 hours may be troublesome. Apply pressure with a bandage on the toe wound and contact your doctor if it persists. It is advised to keep the leg raised.

Pain that doesn't settle with simple painkillers or that is bad enough to keep you awake means you should contact a doctor.

Infection is rare but can occur and is usually be controlled by taking antibiotics for a few days.

Recurrence -The chance of the nail trouble coming back is about 1 in 20.

### What happens afterwards?

Your nail will be dressed with a dry bandage which should stay on for at least 48 hours during which time your toe should be kept dry. You should bring sandals or a pair of wide shoes to travel home in and you will need someone to take you home. It is advisable to keep your foot raised for the next 24h or so and you may need to take painkillers once the local anaesthetic has worn off (after about 1 hour). You can drive as soon as your foot feels comfortable enough to do so. Some patients require antibiotics to take home.