



REHABILITATION

Extensor Indicis to Extensor Pollicis Longus Transfer

Weeks 0-4

You have ruptured the long extensor tendon to your thumb (Extensor Pollicis Longus).

You have had an operation to move one of the extensor tendons from your index finger to the remains of the thumb tendon. The transferred tendon has been strongly repaired but it

will take at least 12 weeks until the repair is strong enough for you to return to unlimited activities.

Progress from this injury varies from person to person and you must be guided by your therapist. These pages provide a guide for an average rehabilitation regime. You will have a removable splint

made to fit you by your hand therapist when you first see them in clinic. This replaces the plaster splint applied in theatre.

This splint protects the healing tendon of your finger. Pay close attention to how the splint is applied, attention to detail makes all the difference to the final results.



Your tendon repair requires splinting ALL the time for the first 4 weeks after your surgery.

Every two hours during the day you should practice the exercises outlined:

Keep your hand in the splint and remove the thumb and hand straps only.

Lift the thumb off the splint with your other hand, as shown.

Keep the thumb of the injured hand straight at all times.

Hold the thumb up for 10 seconds and then place it back on the splint.

Repeat 10 times



Now lift the thumb off the splint by itself, as shown.

Keep the thumb straight at all times.

Hold the thumb up for 10 seconds and then place it back on the splint.

Repeat 10 times





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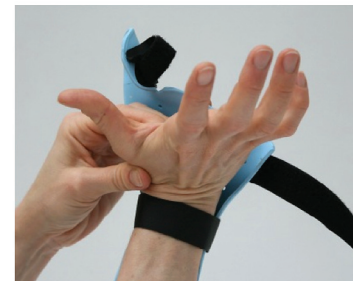
Keep your wrist lifted up and support around the middle of the thumb with your other hand. Bend and straighten the end joint of the thumb, as shown.

Repeat 10 times



Keep your wrist lifted up and support around the base of the thumb with your other hand. Bend and straighten the end two joints of the thumb, as shown.

Repeat 10 times



DO'S

- Do keep your arm/hand elevated to minimise swelling, for at least the first 2 weeks after your surgery. Elevate your hand using a pillow at night and for periods during the day instead of wearing a sling for too long, as this will cause shoulder and neck stiffness
- Do wear your splints as prescribed
- Do follow the therapist recommendations
- Do keep all your uninjured joints moving, including your shoulder, elbow and the fingers of your injured hand.
- Do massage your scar (once healed) with moisturiser as demonstrated by your therapist
- Do contact your therapist immediately if your splint or straps break for it to be mended

DON'TS

- Don't leave your hand out of the splints
- Don't try to push hard against the splints when completing exercises
- Don't use your injured hand to grip objects
- Don't drive until you have discussed this with your therapist