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# K - Wiring of The Hand

## Information For Patients

### Fracture & Orthopaedic Clinic Arrowe Park Hospital

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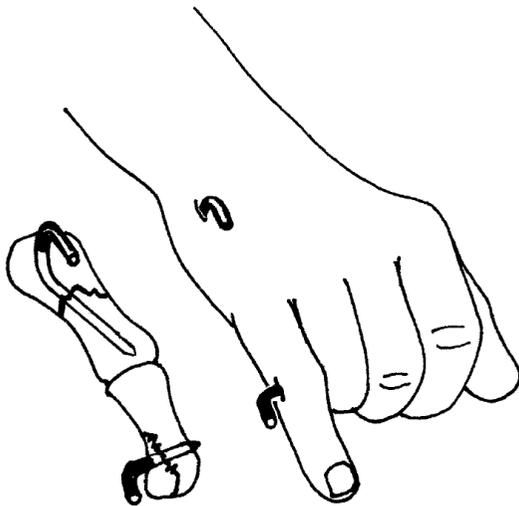


## What is a K-wire (Kirschner Wire)?

A K-wire is a steel pin which is commonly used in bone operations. It is often used to hold broken bones together.

## When are K-wires used in hand injuries?

They are used when broken bones and dislocated joints in the hand and fingers require to be fixed and held in position



**Diagram showing K-wires in the hand and finger**

## What to expect after the operation:

The K-wires are often left sticking out of the skin, but they will be covered by a dressing or by a plaster. The K-wires will usually be removed between 3-6 weeks after the operation. This is performed in the clinic, and may be accompanied by mild and brief pain.

## Care after the operation:

You will be informed by your surgeon what you should and should not do whilst the K-wires are in your hand. It is important that you keep your hand clean and dry to prevent infection. Un-splinted fingers should be exercised regularly.

## Risks of the procedure:

Infection can occur around the pin-sites. It should be suspected if pain and swelling increases after the operation and the dressings become smelly. In this case please phone the

**Fracture Clinic  
at**

**Arrowe Park Hospital**

**0151 604 7069**

**between 9am and 11am**

**Mon – Fri**

**or**

**contact your GP**

**outside these hours.**

**Stiffness** of the hand and fingers may occur after removal of the wires. If this is the case extra physiotherapy will be required to regain movements.

**Overgranulation** of the pin sites may occur. This is where the pin site wounds heal with extra scar tissue. This will require special treatment with a silver nitrate stick over a period of weeks.