



Digital mucoid cyst

i Important information for patients who suffer from digital mucoid cysts

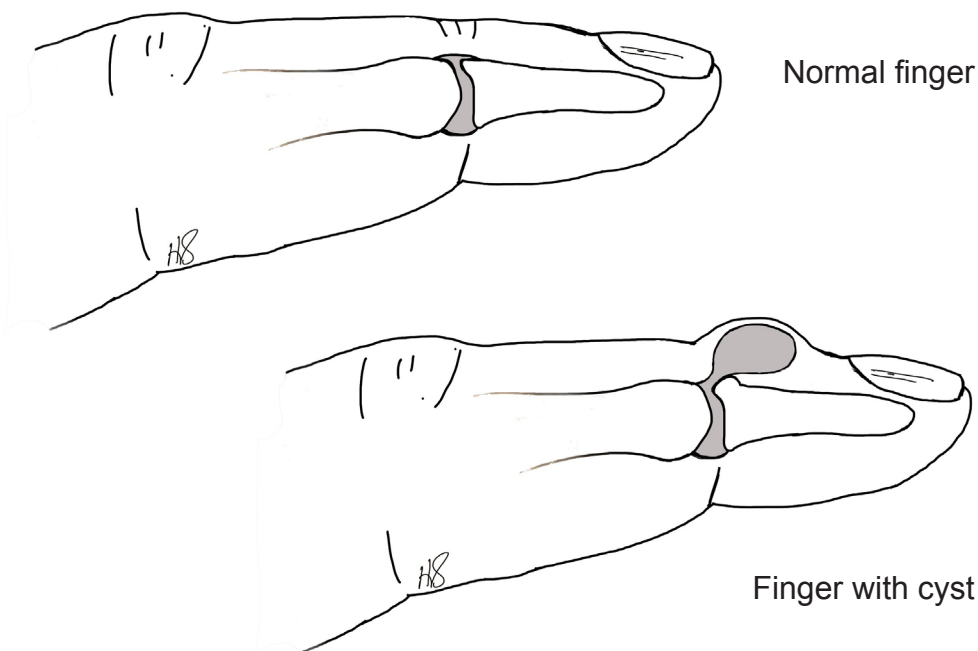
About this booklet

The purpose of this booklet is to tell you about the symptoms and treatment of digital mucoid cysts.

What is a mucoid cyst?

A mucoid cyst is a swelling that occurs over the last joint in the finger or thumb.

All the joints in your hand are lubricated by fluid which helps them to move freely. This fluid is usually contained within the joint capsule. Underlying arthritis can lead to small “bone spurs” which can cause thinning in part of the joint capsule. A mucoid cyst occurs when some of the fluid bulges out this thinner area and becomes trapped. This causes a swelling under the skin.



What are the symptoms?

Some people will feel a tightness or discomfort in the area. It is very common for the cyst to catch on things during daily tasks, which can be painful. There is often some degree of arthritis in the finger which can cause pain and stiffness but it is safe to continue to use your hand.

The cyst can put pressure on the area where your fingernail grows from and cause a ridge or dent in the nail.

They can also sometimes burst and leak clear jelly like fluid. Occasionally, after the cyst bursts, the area can become infected.

Do I need treatment?

Mucoid cysts are generally harmless and it is safe to leave them. If they are interfering with your daily activities or bursting frequently, you may wish to consider treatment.

It is possible to aspirate the fluid from the cyst, however, most cysts will come back after this treatment. You should not repeatedly burst it yourself with a pin as this could lead to an infection which could spread into the joint and be hard to treat.

A small operation can be carried out to remove the cyst. This is usually carried out under local anaesthetic in the operating theatre. If the skin over the cyst is very thin or broken, then the surgeon might need to move the skin up your finger to cover the defect. If you have a “bone spur” this is smoothed down.

You will normally have stitches in your finger for two weeks after surgery and you need to keep the wound clean and dry during this time.

There is a small chance that the cyst could come back after surgery, but most people do not experience significant problems.

What are the risks of surgery?

All surgery carries a risk. These include, but are not limited to the following:

- Most people will have a degree of tenderness or sensitivity in the scar after surgery. It will look a bit red and shiny for several weeks. You will notice that your finger feels swollen and a bit stiff. This usually improves with time and by massaging the scar after it heals.
- If you have underlying arthritis in the joint, then the pain from this will not improve after surgery.
- There is a small risk of having an infection after the surgery. Most infections can be treated with tablet antibiotics. It would be rare to need admission for hospital treatment.
- There is a low risk that the mucoid cyst could come back again.
- There is a very low risk that the tendon that straightens the last joint in your finger could get damaged. If this happens, then it can be repaired but it would slow down your recovery.

The risk of a significant problem after surgery is very low. There is a condition called complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS) which can happen after any hand surgery. We do not fully understand what causes CRPS. Patients who develop CRPS have severe pain, stiffness and swelling. Treatment is with painkillers and physiotherapy. The majority of patients who have CRPS will improve, however, a very small number will experience life changing symptoms.

Further information

If you have any questions or concerns, please email handsurgery@gjnh.scot.nhs.uk or contact the orthopaedic clinic during office hours on 0141 951 5553. For out of hours, you should contact the Senior Nurse via the switchboard on 0141 951 5000.

Post hand surgery videos



Stiffness



Scar management

Notes

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Notes

[illegible]

All of our publications are available in different languages, larger print, braille (English only), audio tape or another format of your choice.

我們所有的印刷品均有不同語言版本、大字體版本、盲文（僅有英文）、錄音帶版本或你想要的另外形式供選擇。

كافة مطبوعاتنا متاحة بلغات مختلفة و بالأحرف الطباعية الكبيرة و بطريقة بريل الخاصة بالمكفوفين (باللغة الإنكليزية فقط) و على شريط كاسيت سمعي أو بصيغة بديلة حسب خيارك.

Tha gach sgrìobhainn againn rim faotainn ann an diofar chànanan, clò nas motha, Braille (Beurla a-mhàin), teip clàistinn no riochd eile a tha sibh airson a thaghadh.

हमारे सब प्रकाशन अनेक भाषाओं, बड़े अक्षरों की छपाई, ब्रेल (केवल अंग्रेज़ी), सुनने वाली कसेट या आपकी पसंदनुसार किसी अन्य फॉरमेट (आरूप) में भी उपलब्ध हैं।

我們所有的印刷品均有不同語言版本、大字体版本、盲文（仅有英文）、录音带版本或你想要的另外形式供选择。

ਸਾਡੇ ਸਾਰੇ ਪਰਚੇ ਅਤੇ ਕਿਤਾਬਚੇ ਵਗ਼ੈਰਾ ਵੱਖ ਵੱਖ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ, ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਬ੍ਰੇਲ (ਸਿਰਫ਼ ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ) ਵਿਚ, ਆਡੀਓ ਟੇਪ 'ਤੇ ਜਾਂ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਮਰਜ਼ੀ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਮਿਲ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਨ।

ہماری تمام مطبوعات مختلف زبانوں، بڑے حروف کی چھپائی، بریل (صرف انگریزی)، سننے والی کسٹ یا آپ کی پسند کے مطابق کسی دیگر صورت (فارمیٹ) میں بھی دستیاب ہیں۔

: 0141 951 5513

Please call the above number if you require this publication in an alternative format

