



TUAN A. TRAN M.D., M.B.A, F.A.C.S.

Diplomate American Board of Plastic Surgery, Diplomate American Board of Surgery

General Surgery, Reconstructive Surgery, Aesthetic Surgery, Plastic and Hand Surgery

Subungual Melanoma Removal

Post-Operative Instructions

Before Your Procedure

- Shower the night before or the morning of your procedure. You can eat and take all of your medications as usual.
- Buy bandages that are made specifically for fingers. You will need to use these after your procedure. You can buy them at your local drug store.
- If you're driving to your appointment, bring someone who can drive you home after your appointment.

After Surgery

After the procedure, antibiotic ointment and dressing (bandage) will be applied on your wound. You may also be given a prescription for an antibiotic to take at home. Care for your wound as instructed by Dr. Tran. As a reminder, you may follow this general advice:

- After the first 24 to 48 hours, wash around the wound with clean water and soap 2 times a day. Don't use hydrogen peroxide or alcohol, which can slow healing.
- You may cover the wound with a thin layer of petroleum jelly, such as Vaseline, and a non-stick bandage.
- Apply more petroleum jelly and replace the bandage as needed. (Follow changing bandage instructions below).
- Acetaminophen and ibuprofen may be taken to reduce pain as needed.

Changing your bandage

Change your bandage 24-48 hours after your procedure. Follow these steps:

- Soak your affected finger in lukewarm water for 15 minutes. This helps keep your bandage from sticking to your wound.
- Gently take the bandage off.
- Wash your wound with soap and water. Pat it dry with clean gauze.
- Check for blue or purple discoloration or redness. If you see any discoloration or redness, please call our office.
- Apply an antibiotic ointment to your wound and cover it with a new bandage.
- Keep the tip of your finger open to the air so that you can keep checking for discoloration or redness.
- Change your bandage once or twice a day until your wound is healed. This usually takes 5 to 7 days.



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Follow-up Visit

At your pre-operative appointment, our office staff will schedule your post-operative visit within 5-7 days following the operation. At this appointment, Dr. Tran will check-up on your recovery and provide you with further instructions of care as needed.

Possible Problems/Emergency

If you develop any symptoms such as fevers with temperature greater than 101.5 F, chills, persistent nausea and vomiting, inability to urinate, persistent numbness/tingling of fingers, or any increasing pain not controlled with medications, please contact our office at 714-839-8000 between the hours of 9AM-6PM on Monday-Thursday and 9AM-1PM on Friday; or you may reach us at 714-860-3588 after hours.

If you are unable to reach your surgeon or a member of his staff, go to the Emergency Room closest to you.

References:

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (2018). *Patient & caregiver education: About your nail procedure*. Retrieved from <https://www.mskcc.org/cancer-care/patient-education/about-your-nail-procedure>
My Health Alberta. (2019). *Surgical nail removal for fungal nail infections*. Retrieved from <https://myhealth.alberta.ca/Health/Pages/conditions.aspx?hwid=hw268840>