



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

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

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*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>