



# Kawartha

PLASTIC SURGERY

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## Post Op Dupuytren's Excision

### Dressings

Please leave your dressing in place for the next three days. After three days you may remove the dressing and wash your hand with warm soapy water then reapply a dry dressing (band-aid or other)

### Showering

It is okay to shower day one after your surgery – you will need to keep the dressing dry. After three days when you take off the dressing you can get the incision wet in the shower. Just pat it dry after the shower. Please do not submerge the incision for one week for instance in the bath or doing dishes.

### Pain

Try to elevate your hand as much as possible over the first 36-48 hours. This helps to reduce swelling and discomfort. Put it up on some pillows above your heart when you go to sleep.

Please take Tylenol extra-strength or your prescribed medication if you have been given one starting 2 hours after surgery and regularly over the next 36 hours even if you do not have any pain. Once pain starts if it is very difficult to stop.

### Sutures

Your sutures are dissolving and do not need to be removed. They usually dissolve within 3-4 weeks.

### Activity

It is okay to use your hand right away as a helper hand and move your fingers. After a week it is a good idea to pick up a stress ball to start some light range of motion squeezing activities. Gradually add activities as you tolerate them. There are no specific restrictions.

### What to watch out for

Some redness around the incision as it heals is normal. This is due to increased blood flow. The top layer of palmar skin often sheds as well.

If pain is increasing after 3-4 days associated with redness and swelling that is not improving over 10-12 hours these are signs of an infection. You should call the office (705-876-9003), your GP or go to emergency if the first two options are unavailable.