



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
PLASTIC SURGEONS®

Informed Consent

Nailbed Reconstruction/Repair Surgery

**INSTRUCTIONS**

This is an informed consent document to help you learn more about Nailbed Surgery. You will learn about the treatment and its potential risks. You will also learn about other treatments you might choose.

It is important that you read the whole document carefully. Please initial each page. Doing so means you have read the page. Then, if you agree with your plastic surgeon's plan, please sign the consent form at the end. Signing the consent agreement means that you agree to the treatment you have talked about with your plastic surgeon.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The "nailbed" refers to the flat layer of tissue under the hard nail of your fingers or toes. A bit of this structure, called the germinal matrix, has special cells that form the hard nail plate. If this delicate tissue is injured, usually through some kind of trauma, it may need to be fixed in order for you to still have a smooth nail. Surgery to repair or reconstruct the nailbed can be done under local anesthesia using a finger tourniquet (a device used to apply pressure). This is an outpatient surgery. You will not need to stay overnight at the hospital. There are a few common to perform nailbed surgery. Talk about them with your plastic surgeon.

OTHER TREATMENTS

Surgery is not the only option to treat a nail problem. You can choose other options, like hiding the nail or changing how it looks, wearing a fake nail, or using a prosthetic. You may also choose to have no treatment at all.

All treatments have risks and complications.

RISKS OF NAILBED SURGERY

Every surgery has risks that you should know about. It is important that you understand these risks. You must also understand the possible problems that can result from them. All procedures have limits. You must decide whether the possible benefits of having this surgery are better than the possible risks. Most patients do not have problems, but you should talk about each of these risks with your plastic surgeon. Make sure you understand everything that might happen during and after nailbed surgery.

Scars

All surgeries leave scars. This surgery may leave obvious scars on the skin or in deeper tissues. These may not go away. Scars may look ugly, dark, raised, or red. They may even be itchy or painful. Some people get keloids—prominent, raised, red scars. You may need further treatment or surgery to fix this. If your nailbed scars, it can cause changes in the growth of the nail, such as ridges and grooves.

Infection

You may have an infection after surgery. You may need to go to the hospital for treatment. This could include antibiotics or more surgery.

Hematoma

Bleeding after surgery can lead to healing problems. Bleeding under a nail plate or nail stent can squeeze the tissues below, damaging them. Sometimes, you may need more treatment to fix this, like a procedure to remove the extra blood or fluid that builds up.

Open Wounds

Surgery causes wounds. These wounds can open up later and may cause poor results. If this happens, you may need more surgery or other treatment.



Changes in Feeling

After surgery, you may have shooting pain. You may also have a burning sensation. It often helps to elevate your hand after surgery to reduce blood flow and swelling. You may feel uncomfortable after surgery if you had symptoms for a long time. Changes in feeling can also happen if you have medical problems that affect the nerves. Small nerves may become more active in the scar. This can cause itching or pain. Massage or other therapies may help this. It is important to talk to your surgeon about pain after surgery.

Damage to Nearby Structures

Nerves, blood vessels, bones, nailbed, nail fold, cuticle, and other tissues may be damaged during surgery. This depends on the type of surgery and/or how it is done. More surgery may be needed if this happens. Injury to nearby structures may or may not improve with time and treatment.

Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS)

Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS) is rare but can happen after surgery. You may have CRPS if you have pain, swelling, redness, and more sensitivity in the affected area. In some people, CRPS may get better on its own. Others may need more treatment.

Lack of Improvement and Donor Site Risks

Your nail problems, like deformity, irregularity, or absence, may not get better after surgery. Even a well-done surgery can have a bad outcome. If you have a full or partial nailbed graft, the place it is taken from may develop nail problems, like partial, full, or permanent loss of nail. The nail graft may heal only partly or not heal at all.

You may see no improvement. In some cases, you may have loss of function and feel more pain.

Relapse

Issues with your nailbed may come back in the future. Aging, other diseases—especially infections—and scarring from the surgery can cause other problems. If this happens, you may need more treatment. Further treatments may not be possible or may not be recommended by your surgeon.

DISCLAIMER

Informed consent documents give you information about a surgery you are considering. These documents explain the risks of that surgery. They also discuss other treatment options, including not having surgery. However, informed consent documents can't cover everything. Your plastic surgeon may give you more or different information. This may be based on the facts of your case.

Informed consent documents are not meant to define or serve as the standard of medical care. Standards of medical care are determined based on the facts involved in an individual case. They may change with advances in science and technology. They can also change with the way doctors practice medicine.

It is important that you read the above information carefully and get all your questions answered before signing the consent agreement on the next page.

