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WEDGE RESECTION

INTRODUCTION

A wedge resection is performed for toe nails that have recurrent infection. Most commonly the infection involves the big toe. The infection occurs because the toe nail becomes ingrown into the nail fold.

THE SURGERY

Wedge resection surgery involves:

- i. General anaesthetic, intravenous antibiotics
- ii. Oblique incision at base of toe nail.
- iii. Excision of outer 1/5 of toe nail.
- iv. Excision of outer 1/5 of germinal matrix (the cells that make new nail).
- v. Closure of wounds.

RISKS OF SURGERY

All surgical procedures carry some risk. Fortunately the risk of complications with wedge resection surgery is extremely low. Some of the risks of surgery include:

- Recurrent infection.
- Problems with wound healing.
- Regrowth of a spicule of nail in the nail fold.
- Deep venous thrombosis/pulmonary embolism. (The risk of DVT increases with smoking, the oral contraceptive, hormone replacement therapy, immobility and obesity).
- Ongoing pain.
- Anaesthetic complications.
- Drug allergy.

GUIDELINES FOR EXPECTED POST OPERATIVE RECOVERY

Keep dressings dry and intact until post operative appointment. If dressings do become wet or blood stained, they can be changed.

Keep foot elevated as much as possible, especially for initial 72 hours.

Removal of stitches/sutures: 10-14 days at first post operative appointment.

Antibiotics for 2 weeks.

Weight bearing as tolerated, returning to most activities within one month.

Every patient's recovery is individual and depends on the severity of the injury and the complexity of the surgery.

ANY PROBLEMS

During office hours contact Dr Wines' office on (02) 9409 0500.

After hours please contact the hospital where your surgery was performed.