

# **DR ANDREW WINES MBBS FRACS (Orth) FAOrthA**

## **Adult and Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon**

### **Foot, Ankle and Trauma Surgery**

#### **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 low (in the vicinity of 20%). Some of the risks of surgery include:

- Infection
- Problems with wound healing that may require antibiotic treatment, readmission to hospital, further surgery including plastic surgery and/or other treatments
- Nerve injury causing pain, numbness tingling and/or pins and needles
- Ongoing pain
- Complex regional pain syndrome
- Scarring
- Deep venous thrombosis/pulmonary embolism. (The risk of DVT increases with smoking, the oral contraceptive pill and hormone replacement therapy, immobility and obesity).
- Insufficient blood flow resulting in loss of toes, foot or limb
- Drug allergy / anaphylaxis
- Further surgery
- Anaesthetic complications including heart attack, stroke and death

##### **GUIDELINES FOR EXPECTED POST OPERATIVE RECOVERY**

Keep dressings dry and intact until post operative appointment. Keep foot elevated as much as possible, especially for initial 72 hours.

Dressing change on the first Wednesday post-surgery.

Removal of stitches/sutures: 10-14 days.

Pain killers may be required for up to 2 weeks.

Antibiotics for 2 weeks after surgery if required.

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

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

##### **ANY PROBLEMS**

During office hours contact Dr Wines' office on (02) 9409 0563. After hours, please contact the hospital where your surgery was performed.