Toenail Removal

Toenails may need to be removed because of injury, infections or to correct abnormal growth. A special non-stick bandage will likely be put tightly on your toe to prevent bleeding. Often times a new nail will grow back. Sometimes the new nail may be deformed. Most of the time when a nail is lost, it will gradually heal, but may be sensitive for a long time.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Keep your foot elevated to relieve pain and swelling. This will require lying in bed or on a couch with the leg on pillows or sitting in a recliner with the leg up. Walking or letting your leg dangle may increase swelling, slow healing and cause throbbing pain.
- Keep your bandage dry and clean.
- Change your bandage in 24 hours.
- After your bandage is changed, soak your foot in warm, soapy water for 10 to 20 minutes. Do this 3 times per day. This helps reduce pain and swelling. After soaking your foot, apply a clean, dry bandage. Change your bandage if it is wet or dirty.
- Only take over-the-counter or prescription medicines for pain, discomfort, or fever as directed by your caregiver.
- See your caregiver as needed for problems.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You have increased pain, swelling, redness & warmth (*inflammation*), drainage or bleeding.
- An oral temperature above 102º F (38.9º C) develops, not controlled by medication.
- You have swelling that spreads from your toe into your foot.

YOU MIGHT NEED A TETANUS SHOT NOW IF:

- You have no idea when you had the last one.
- You have never had a tetanus shot before.
- The injured area had dirt in it.

If you need a tetanus shot, and you decide not to get one, there is a rare chance of getting tetanus. Sickness from tetanus can be serious. If you did get a tetanus shot, your arm may swell, get red and warm to the touch at the shot site. This is common and not a problem.

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