

For more information on K- Wire Removal and Care, please contact the Orthopaedic Plaster Nurses on:

01 4096100

Bleep 8336 or leave a Voicemail at 01 4092412.

Remember: Ask your nurse if you are unsure about anything about your child's care.

Additional instructions

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**K- WIRE REMOVAL
INFORMATION LEAFLETS
FOR PARENTS / CARERS
OF A CHILD**

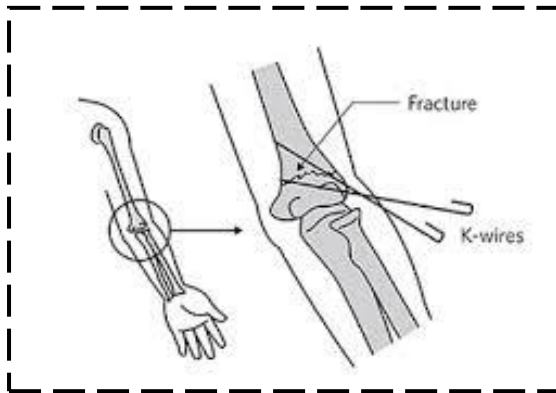


Children's Health Ireland at Crumlin

Phone: 01 409 6100

What are K- Wires?

“K” (Kirschner) - wires are surgical devices that are used to hold bones in a corrected position following surgery. The wires are placed so the ends extrude from the skin to allow easy removal once the bone has healed. They are covered with a padded dressing and a plaster cast so your child will not be able to see or feel them.



Care at home while the K- Wires are in:

Your child will not be able to see or feel the wires under the cast. Keep the cast and bandages clean and dry and provide over the counter pain relieving medicines as needed.

Occasionally problems can arise when K- wires are in place. It is important for you to monitor your child for any signs of infection and to **contact the hospital immediately if any of the following occur:**

- Increased pain around where the K- wires have been placed.

- Pain that you cannot control with over the counter pain medicines.
- Temperature over 38°C
- Strong odour or ooze coming from the cast
- If you are worried for any reason.

If you think your child may have a wire infection please present to the Emergency Department immediately.

Where are K- Wires removed?

The majority of K- wires are removed in the Outpatients Department. The K- wires are usually removed after three to six weeks, once the bone has healed. Prior to your appointment **we recommend you give your child some pain relieving medicine in preparation for the procedure.**

It is recommended that you talk to your child about what will happen during the procedure. This will help reduce their anxiety and enable them to deal better with the procedure.

An X-ray may be needed to confirm the fracture has healed enough for the wires to be removed. The Plaster Cast will then be removed in the Plaster Room.

Removal of the K- Wires:

- The dressings around the K- wires will be removed, and the skin around them cleaned.
- The wires are then removed using a special pliers.
- The procedure is generally quick. It can feel uncomfortable and strange for your child during the wire removal. This usually settles soon after the wires have been removed.

- The Nurse and Doctor will provide clear explanations and reassurance to your child.
- Once the wires are removed, there will be small pin sites, these pin sites may bleed a little so a dressing will be applied with some pressure for about 30-60 seconds.
- Once the bleeding stops, a dry dressing will be applied to the wire sites. We recommend that you keep this dressing dry and in place for 48-72 hours.
- Your child's arm may be placed in a sling to help them feel more comfortable after the procedure. The sling only needs to be worn the day of the wire removal procedure.

Care at home after the K- Wires are removed:

We recommend that you keep the dressing around the wires dry and in place for 48-72 hours. After this time your child can bath and shower as normal. The skin where the pin sites were will usually scab over. We recommend avoiding going to a swimming pool until the wounds have fully healed.

The doctor will advise you and your child about what gentle exercises your child can begin to get their normal strength and movement back. They will also advise you about how long your child will need to avoid any contact sports for. You will be given an appointment if the Doctor needs to see your child back in the Out Patients.