

Patient information

External Fixator Removal in Orthopaedic Clinic

Therapies Department- Broadgreen Hospital

Your external fixator can be removed in Out-Patient Orthopaedic Clinic. The process may take around an hour. The external fixator is gradually disassembled, wires and half pins are then removed. You do not need anyone to accompany you. However, one person can attend with you if you wish.

A Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon will obtain verbal informed consent for you to have your external fixator removed.

Pain relief options will be explained to you. You may be offered an ultrasound guided nerve block that will reduce your pain throughout the procedure. This will be performed by a Consultant Anaesthetist with experience in ultrasound guided nerve blocks. The Consultant Anaesthetist will discuss which nerves will be blocked, and the small risk of complications of this with you.

Following external fixator removal, the following may occur:

- Temporary localised bleeding. This will have stopped before you leave the clinic.
- If you have a nerve block, you may experience pain once the effect of the nerve block wears off. Simple pain relief is often enough to settle this.

There is a very small risk of complications with external fixator removal. In this Limb Reconstruction Unit, there is a less than one percent occurrence of each of the following complications:

- Fracture.
- Partial removal/broken metalwork which may need surgery.
- Infection.
- Wound healing problems.

If you have any further questions, please ask a member of staff.

Feedback

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future.

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Further information

**If you have any concerns following the procedure, please contact:
Limb Reconstruction Therapy Gym
Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm
Ward 3
Broadgreen Hospital
Tel: 0151 282 6928**

**If your concerns are in the evening or at the weekend, please contact
NHS 111.**

**Author: Broadgreen Hospital Limb Reconstruction Unit
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All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

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