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Information for patients and carers

# TRAPEZIECTOMY SURGERY

#### Swelling Management

- It is normal to have swelling after your surgery.
- It is important to keep your fingers moving fully e.g. making a full fist.
- Keep your arm elevated above the level of your heart when resting in the first few weeks after surgery.
- Do not hang your arm down by your side for long periods.





#### Wound and Scar Management

- A light dressing will be put on your wound, keep the dressing **clean** and **dry**.
- Once your wound is fully healed your hand therapist will advise on how to massage and moisturise your scar.
- Once your wound has fully healed keep your hand clean by washing it in running cool water, do not soak your hand. Pat dry with a clean towel or kitchen roll.
- If your thumb/ hand becomes red, or you have increased pain or discharge from your wound please contact the hand therapy team or A and E immediately.

#### <u>Splint</u>

- You will be provided with a splint to protect your thumb and in some cases your wrist will be included in the splint.
- Wear the splint at all times and remove for hand hygiene and for the exercises given by your hand therapist.
- The splint will be worn for at least 4 weeks and then will be worn for a further 2 weeks at night.
- You must not drive with the splint on.
- Your hand can be used for light use and the exercises given by the hand therapist.

Care of your splint:

- ✓ Wash in soap and lukewarm water and rinse.
- ✓ Baby wipes can be used to clean and freshen up the splint.

## DO NOT

- X Leave in sunlight, near direct heat or a naked flame X Place in hot water
- X Adjust the splint yourself.

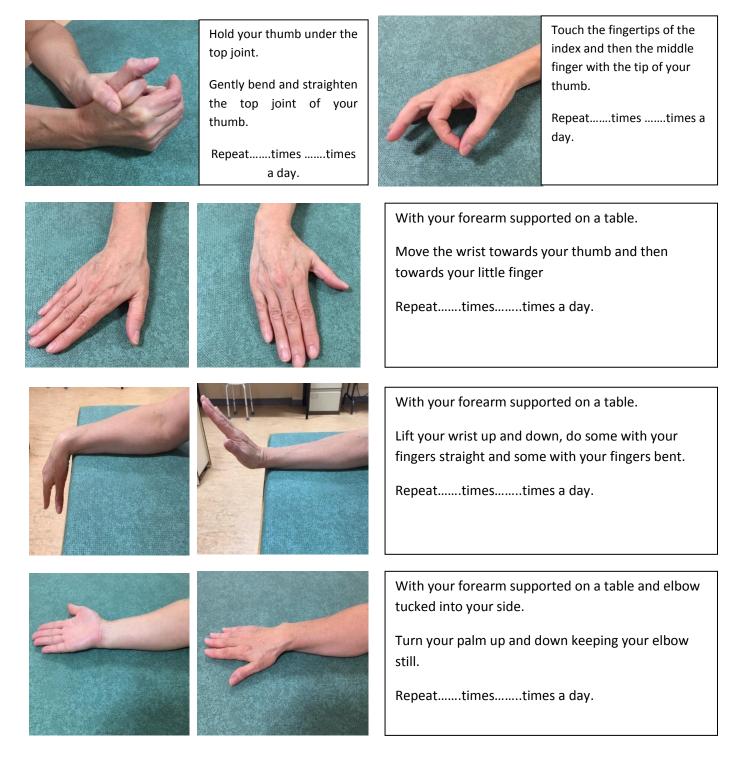


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#### **Exercises**

It is normal to feel a stretch when doing the exercises but they shouldn't be painful. People progress with the exercises at different rates and the exercises below are a guide, your therapist will advise you on the exercises you need to do.

#### Exercises from 2 weeks post operation:



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### Exercises from 4 weeks post operation



Place your unaffected thumb in your palm as shown in the picture.

Bend your operated thumb into your palm over your non operated thumb.

Repeat.....times.....times a day.

#### Exercises from 6 weeks post



Move your thumb across your palm to touch the base of the little finger

Repeat ..... times..... times a day.





Place the palm of your hand on a table.

Move your thumb away from your index finger and back in again.

Repeat.....times....times a day.

Place the palm of your hand on a table.

Move the thumb away from the index finger.

Push into your non operated thumb with your operated thumb.

Hold for .....seconds times......a day.

Please contact the hand therapy department if:

You experience a rash, redness, rubbing or irritation of your skin from the splint.

With your thumb touch each

Repeat.....times.....times a

dav.

fingertip.

- > You experience an increase in pain or pins and needles or numbness
- You experience large amounts of swelling or sweating in the splint.
- Your splint breaks or feels too tight or loose.
- > You have any concerns regarding your wound.

Contact details: Hand Therapy Team Harrogate District Hospital 01423 /553404 553460