

# Mallet Finger

Paediatric A&E Department



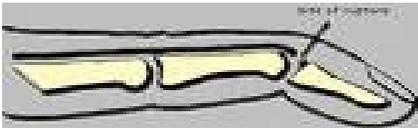
## Introduction and explanation of condition

Your child has torn the tendon that straightens the end joint of their finger. We call this a "mallet injury".

To treat this, the joint must be held straight in a splint for 6 - 8 weeks as tendons heal very slowly. Your child will be seen in the fracture clinic during this time.

If your child's finger is allowed to bend during this time, healing will not occur and the "droop" of the finger will be permanent. The splint should, therefore, be removed **ONLY** for cleaning and **while keeping the finger straight**.

## The treatment



The fingertip droops because the tendon to extend it has snapped.

The treatment is to avoid letting the fingertip drop **at all times** for a minimum of 6 – 8 weeks. Your child must wear the splint at all times except for cleaning (see above)



The splint (which may vary in design) will allow the tip to be kept extended when the hand is in use.

## Do Not

- Attempt to examine the healing by bending the fingertip until advised by the treating doctor.

## Do

- Ensure your child's hand is elevated in a sling for the first week and that they move all the joints normally except the splinted one.
- Make sure that you have follow up appointments at the Fracture Clinic.

## Further Information

Paediatric Accident and Emergency Department  
St. Peter's Hospital, Guildford Road  
Chertsey  
Surrey KT16 0PZ  
Telephone: **01932 872000**

For reassurance and advice please contact NHS Direct on: **111**

The following website gives useful advice: [www.patient.co.uk](http://www.patient.co.uk)

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## Further Information

We endeavour to provide an excellent service at all times, but should you have any concerns please, in the first instance, raise these with the Matron, Senior Nurse or Manager on duty.

If they cannot resolve your concern, please contact our Patient Experience Team on 01932 723553 or email [asp-tr.patient.advice@nhs.net](mailto:asp-tr.patient.advice@nhs.net). If you remain concerned, the team can also advise upon how to make a formal complaint.

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**To use the Text Relay service, prefix all numbers with 18001.**

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Jeżeli chcemy, aby te informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić 01932 723553

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