Possible Risks

All surgical procedures have some risk attached. The risks associated with nail surgery are minimal but can occasionally include the following:

- Infection following the removal of the nail.
- Re-growth of the nail.
- A rare but serious allergic reaction following the injection of the local anaesthetic.

It is important that you inform the podiatrist of any previous reactions you have had to local anaesthesia before agreeing to proceed.

If you have any questions or queries that have not been answered by reading this leaflet, please ask the podiatrist who will be pleased to help.

Valley Clinics

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What is it?

Nail surgery is a minor surgical procedure carried out under local anaesthetic, used to treat in growing nails and other painful nail conditions.

The procedure is carried out by the Podiatrist in a clinic and normally takes less than 1 hour in total.

A local anaesthetic is injected into the skin on both sides of the base of the toe. This will make the toe numb and pain-free, although you may still experience some pressure.

Part or the whole of the affected nail may be removed. Following removal, a chemical is applied to the nail bed to prevent the nail from growing again. Where part of the nail has been removed, the nail may appear slightly narrower than before.

Will It Hurt?

You will be advised to go straight home directly after the operation and to rest with your foot elevated for the rest of the day.

Due to the numbness caused, you should NOT drive immediately following the procedure as it may invalidate your insurance.

After the day of the operation, it is not normally necessary to take time off work/school, although it is important to avoid any undue pressure or injury to the toe.

You will need to refrain from any sporting activities until the wound heals.

During the first few days, it may be difficult to wear normal footwear due to the bulky dressing applied.

It normally takes 4-8 weeks for the area to completely heal providing the appropriate advice is followed.

It is not advisable to have the procedure carried out at a time when you would not be able to attend for dressing appointments e.g. just before a holiday.

It will be necessary to keep the dressing dry until your first dressing appointment, which will normally be within 7 days of the procedure.

Reasons Why Nail Surgery Is Necessary

Nail surgery is carried out to cure nail problems and to prevent their recurrence.

The following are examples of nail conditions that may be effectively treated by nail surgery:

In growing nails where the nail penetrates the skin.

Thickened or deformed nails caused by injury or infection.

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