

What to Expect from Hardware Removal Surgery

WHY IS HARDWARE REMOVAL SURGERY IMPORTANT FOR MY CHILD?

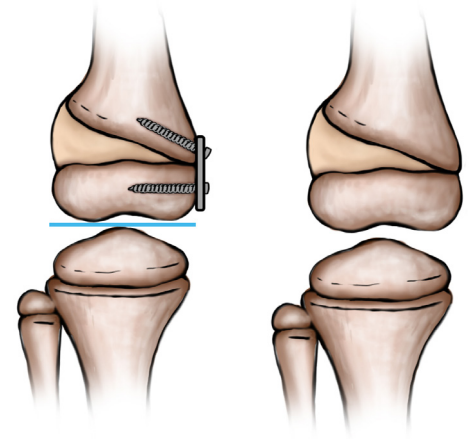
Your child had a surgery that required hardware, such as pins, screws or plates to adjust the growth of the bone and/or hold the position of a bone/multiple bones. Your doctor will discuss with you why it is time to remove the hardware.

WHY SHOULD MY CHILD HAVE A HARDWARE REMOVAL PROCEDURE?

The hardware in your child is no longer needed to control bone growth.

Common reasons for hardware removal are to

- Reduce pain
- Improve alignment
- Remove bumps caused by the hardware pushing on the skin



Your child's growth, healing time and treatment goals determine the length of time the hardware is needed.

WHAT IS INVOLVED IN A HARDWARE REMOVAL PROCEDURE?

Your surgeon will make a small incision near the location of the hardware and remove it. Many children go home on the day of surgery. Your child will not need a cast following the surgery. Your child should be able to move in ways that are normal for them after the procedure.

RECOVERY AT HOME

Your child will mostly be able to put weight on their feet as tolerated. However, depending on what type of hardware is removed, they may not be able to place all their weight on their legs. Your care team will discuss any restrictions with you prior to surgery.

This plan includes instructions for safely bathing, dressing, providing self-care and moving around. Follow the instructions from your team about taking care of the skin where the surgery took place. Do not put the wound under water until your surgeon says that it is safe to do so.

Follow the surgeon's instructions for limiting your child's activity while they are healing. The patient will need to avoid high-impact activities for 4 to 8 weeks as they heal.



Different types of hardware may need removal.

Please contact your care team if you have any questions or concerns after surgery.

Guidance for Your Therapist and Care Providers: Post-Operation

HARDWARE REMOVAL FOR PLATES WITH SCREWS

Immediate Post-Op to Return to Prior Level of Function

RESTRICTIONS

- Weight bearing as tolerated (WBAT)
- Activity limited by pain
- Avoid impact activities (running, jumping, skipping, hopping) for 8 weeks

IMMOBILIZATION

- None

THERAPY FOCUS

- Continue current plan of care with limitation of impact activities for 8 weeks

CRITERIA TO PROGRESS

- Uneventful healing of the surgical tissues

HARDWARE REMOVAL FOR PINS, ETC.

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