

Pins or Wires for Fracture Repair

Orthopaedic Clinic

4480 Oak Street, Vancouver, BC V6H 3V4
604-875-2345 1-888-300-3088
www.bcchildrens.ca

Your child's fracture has been fixed with pins

Pins, sometimes called wires, are used to hold a broken bone in place. One or more pins may be needed depending on what bone is broken.

Pins are left in for approximately 3-4 weeks. This is when the bone has healed enough that the pins are not needed anymore. Part of each pin sticks out of the skin. Your child will not need an operation to remove them.

Care at home while pins are in

You will not be able to see the pins because they are covered by a cast. Pins do not need special care.

- Leave the pins covered
- Keep the cast dry
- Give Tylenol and/or Advil for pain following instructions on the bottle



Pin removal at the clinic

Pins will be removed at the orthopaedic clinic. You will receive a call from the clinic to book this appointment.

Pins are usually removed without any sedation. Most children tolerate pin removal well and have very little pain. A clinic nurse will call you before your visit to talk about your child's needs.

How to prepare

- Give Tylenol or Advil 30 minutes before your visit
- Bring a favorite item to distract your child, such as a toy, book or video game



To learn more about cast care, read the *Fractures, Casts and Splints* pamphlet at:

http://www.bcchildrens.ca/Orthopaedics-Site/Documents/BCCH1011_FracturesCastsSplints_2013.pdf

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During your visit

- We will provide simple explanations and reassure your child
- The cast will be removed with a special saw
- You can help distract your child with their favorite item

Pin removal

- Your child will be positioned so they cannot see the pins
- Dressings will be removed from around the pins
- Pins will be twisted and gently removed
- Your child may feel a pinch or a pulling sensation
- It takes only a few seconds to remove each pin

After pin removal

- Children may be upset by the procedure but usually feel better within a few minutes
- There will be a tiny hole where each pin has been
- It is normal to see a few drops of blood
- We will cover the area with a small bandage
- Your child may have an x-ray taken to see how their bone is healing
- Your doctor will decide whether another cast or a splint is needed

Care at home after pins are removed

If your child has another cast, please follow the cast care instructions you were given.

If your child does **NOT** have a cast:

- Keep the bandages dry for 48 hours
- After this time your child may shower and reapply clean bandages
- Do not soak the area in a bath or swimming pool until pin sites are completely healed



Call the Clinic Nurse If your child...

- **Has increasing pain**
- **Develops a fever**
- **Has redness or drainage from pin removal area**
- **OR if you are concerned for any reason**

If you are not able to reach the Clinic Nurse, go to the nearest Emergency Department

How do I contact the Clinic Nurse?



The Orthopaedic Clinic nurse telephone number is 604-875-2345 ext. 7273