

Further sources of information

NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk/conditions

Our website: www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk

Patient Experience Team (PET)

PET is available to help with any of your compliments, concerns or complaints, and will ensure a prompt and efficient service.

King's Mill Hospital: 01623 672222

Newark Hospital: 01636 685692

Email: sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net

If you would like this information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call the Patient Experience Team on 01623 672222 or email sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net.

This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you. External websites may be referred to in specific cases. Any external websites are provided for your information and convenience. We cannot accept responsibility for the information found on them.

If you require a full list of references (if relevant) for this leaflet, please email sfh-tr.patientinformation@nhs.net or telephone 01623 622515, extension 6927.

To be completed by the Communications office
Leaflet code: PIL202310-01-FMF
Created: October 2023/ Review Date: October 2025

Information reproduced with permission from
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Trust

INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

Discharge advice

Fifth metacarpal fracture



Healthier Communities,
Outstanding Care

What is a fifth metacarpal fracture?

You have broken one of the long bones found in the palm of your hand. The location of the break will depend on how the injury happened. This injury can occur in a variety of ways from falling onto an outstretched hand, falling off your bike or hitting something with a clenched fist.

You may see a bump on the back of your hand over where the fracture is.



Swelling and bruising at the fracture site is normal. Simple, over-the-counter pain killers and applying ice to the area will help to reduce swelling and pain. Ice should be applied, wrapped in a tea towel, for 20 minutes three to four times a day.

These fractures can be protected by strapping the fractured finger to the finger next to it. This may be done by taping your fingers together or using a double tubigrip. This acts as a splint to protect the healing bone from too much strain, but also allows for early movement of your fingers. Spare tubigrip splints will be sent out by the clinic.

You should:

- Keep the strapping on at all times, even at night. The strapping should just be removed for hygiene purposes.
- Move your fingers whilst wearing the strapping to prevent your joints from becoming stiff.
- Elevate your affected hand in the early days after your injury to help reduce the swelling.
- Avoid contact sports for six weeks after injury.

You should not:

- Wear any rings on this hand until the injured finger has healed.
- Grip or lift anything heavy until you reach the end of the strapping period.
- Miss your appointment with the hand specialist or hand therapist if one has been requested.

Problems and further advice

A fracture liaison service is available, and advice can be given over the telephone.

If there are any issues or you have any concerns/ questions, we advise you seek help.

Call the fracture liaison nurses on 01623 622515, extension 4114 or 6807, between 8am and 4pm, Monday to Friday.

Outside of these hours, or for urgent advice, please go to your nearest Emergency Department.