

# Managing Finger Tip Injuries in an Emergency Setting

## Background

- Fingertip injuries are most common type of injuries presenting to paediatric emergency departments (Irish Association of Plastic Surgeons, 2013);
- Crush injuries are the most common type of fingertip injury, with fingers getting caught in doors, windows or hinges (Al-Anazi, 2013; Al-Qadhi et al., 2011);
- 162 children attended The Children's University Hospital, Temple Street with fingertip injuries in 2014;
- 15 children a week in Ireland need medical treatment for fingertip injuries (Irish Association of Plastic Surgeons, 2013);
- Frequency of injury is highest among children less than 5 years old (Al-Anazi, 2013; Al-Qadhi, et al., 2011).

## Aim

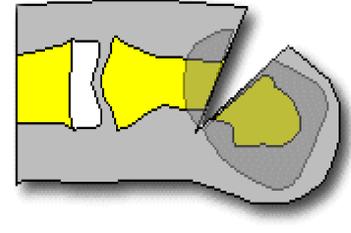
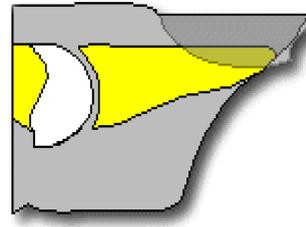
To provide information on managing fingertip injuries in an emergency setting to parents.

## Prevention of finger tip injuries in the home:

- ✓ Child proofing doors important in all houses with young children;
- ✓ Use of design modifications - such as finger guards for doors can help avoid fingers being injured by closing door (Al-Anazi, 2013);
- ✓ Children should be supervised adequately.

## What to do if your child suffers a fingertip amputation at home

- Immediately wrap the amputated finger in a wet cloth;
- Place finger in a plastic bag;
- Place bag into a container of ice;
- Wrap wound in a sterile dressing or clean towel;
- Reassure child and try to keep child and yourself calm;
- Bring child to an Accident and Emergency Dept. as soon as possible (Irish Association Of Plastic Surgeons, 2013).



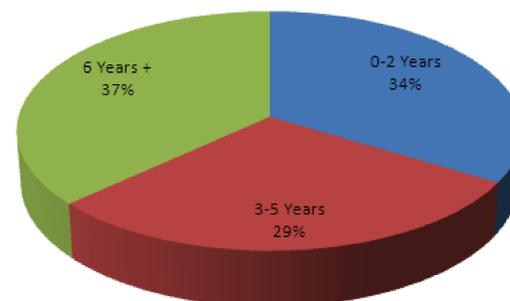
## Full amputation

## Partial amputation

## Types of fingertip injuries

- Amputation involves complete removal of fingertip (Capstick and Giele, 2014);
- There may also be injury causing partial amputation, laceration, damage to nail bed or haematoma - collection of blood (Capstick and Giele, 2014).

Finger Tip Injuries 2014



## What to expect on arrival to the emergency dept.

- ✓ On arrival, wound will be assessed & necessary treatment carried out;
- ✓ Treatment will vary, depending on extent of injury;
- ✓ Goal of treatment is restoration of a painless, fully functioning finger (Lee, Mignemi and Crosby, 2013);
- ✓ Treatment will be conservative - with wound cleansing & dressing, or surgical - repair of lacerations and fractures (Capstick and Giele, 2014);
- ✓ Suturing may be used for simple lacerations, without undergoing surgery (Al-Anazi, 2013);
- ✓ X-rays will only be carried out on suspicion of bony injuries (Al-Anazi, 2013);
- ✓ Involvement of the plastics/orthopaedic teams may be necessary, depending on extent of injury;
- ✓ Pain relief will be given, as required (Al-Anazi, 2013);
- ✓ Antibiotic medication/ointments may be prescribed (Al-Anazi, 2013; Capstick and Giele, 2014).

## REFERENCES

- Al-Anazi, A.F. (2013) 'Fingertip injuries in paediatric patients – experiences at an emergency centre in Saudi Arabia', *Journal of the Pakistan Medical Association*, 63(6), pp. 675-679.
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