

## Home Care After a Replantation

### What is replantation?

Replantation is surgery done by a plastic surgeon to reattach an amputated part, such as a finger, hand, or arm. It may take 8-10 hours.

### Home Care

Keep the ace or splint dry and clean at all times. Do not remove the dressing. You may shower by using a plastic bag to cover your dressing and taping the bag shut.

If you have a pin that you can see, you will need to clean around the pin. Dip a cotton swab in normal saline solution. Swab around the pin using the cotton swab twice a day.

Do not move your reattached part until after therapy is started. This will be many months after your surgery. You will need to use your other hand for eating, dressing, etc.

Do not smoke. Smoking will slow blood flow to your replanted part. You may discuss this with your doctor on your first clinic visit.

Do not eat or drink things with caffeine in them like chocolate, ice cream, coffee and energy drinks. It can slow blood flow. Check the labels on protein and granola bars.

Do not wear any clothing that may be tight on your replanted part.

Do not expose your reattached part to extreme cold.

### Activity

Wear a sling when you are out of bed. Your reattached part should be raised above the level of your heart and across your chest. When sleeping, rest your reattached part on top of a stack of pillows. This will help with blood flow.

### When to Call

If you notice your reattached part becomes **bluish or cool**, call your doctor.

### Who to Call

Plastic Surgery Clinic  
**608-263-7502 or 1-800-323-8942**

Nights, weekends, and holidays, you will get the paging operator. Ask for the plastic surgery resident on call. Leave your name and phone number with the area code. The doctor will call you back.