



### **Amputations**

**(<https://galwayem.ie/index.php/index.php/guidelines/trauma-and-musculoskeletal/amputations>)**

#### Category

Trauma and Musculoskeletal (<https://galwayem.ie/index.php/guidelines/trauma-and-musculoskeletal>)

Amputations of the fingers and thumbs are not uncommon and are of great importance. In addition to the usual details always note:

1. is patient left or right handed
2. patient's occupation
3. patient's hobbies

#### **Amputation through soft tissue of finger tip**

1. If patient brings in a clean, non-crushed finger tip - clean, defat finger tip and suture it on as a skin graft, using a tie over dressing. Ask advice. Review Clinic in one week.
2. If finger tip is lost or severely traumatised, clean, dress and allow to heal by granulation.

Review 5-7 days in Review Clinic

#### **More proximal amputations with loss of bone.**

Discuss with Hand Surgery service

#### **Amputation of whole finger**

Discuss with Plastic surgeons.

#### **Loss of pulp of distal phalanx**

Less than 1 sq cm of **FULL** thickness skin loss - clean, dress and allow to heal by granulation.

More than 1 sq cm of **FULL** thickness skin loss - ask advice.

#### **Note**

In people whose fingers are of vital importance - e.g. musicians, typists etc always ask advice.