



University Hospital Galway

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT
GalwayEM.ie

Amputations

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

Category

[Trauma and Musculoskeletal \(https://galwayem.ie/index.php/guidelines/trauma-and-musculoskeletal\)](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.

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