

MANIPULATION AND K WIRE Patient Information

PROCEDURE

The fracture, which is unstable, is fixed with wires to hold the bones in position and allow healing to take place.

GENERAL RISKS OF A PROCEDURE

They include:

- (a) Small areas of the lungs may collapse, increasing the risk of chest infection. This may need antibiotics and physiotherapy.
- (b) Clots in the legs (deep vein thrombosis or DVT) with pain and swelling. Rarely part of this clot may break off and go to the lungs which can be fatal.
- (c) A heart attack because of strain on the heart or a stroke.
- (d) Death is possible due to the procedure.

RISKS OF THIS PROCEDURE

There are some risks/ complications, which include:

- (a) Numbness associated with the use of tourniquet with nerve and muscle damage at the site where the tourniquet was placed. This may be temporary or permanent.
- (b) Skin death under the tourniquet, which may require further dressings and / or surgery and skin grafting.
- (c) Breakage of wires. This may require further surgery.
- (d) Infection around the wires. The wires may need to be removed.
- (e) The wires may move out of position. The wires may need to be removed.
- (f) Loss of fracture position. This may require further surgery.
- (g) Wires may need to be removed at a future stage.
- (h) Abnormal pain response to surgery with worsening of pain and disability.
- (i) The surgical cut may cause changes to the sensation and colour of the limb being operated on.
- (j) The wound may not heal properly and can become red, thickened and painful. This can be disfiguring.
- (k) Increased risk in obese people of wound infection, chest infection, heart and lung complications and thrombosis.
- (l) Increased risk in smokers of wound and chest infections, heart and lung complications and thrombosis.