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### PIN CARE

Metal pins have been used to immobilize part of your hand to allow your hand to heal properly. These pin sites can become infected. Care must be taken to prevent this.

1. Keep your pins, wound and bandages dry and clean. If your bandage becomes moist, you should change it immediately as a moist environment allows for bacteria to grow.
2. Avoid banging or pulling on your pins.
3. Cover your pins with gauze or a band-aid if they get caught in clothing.
4. Clean your pins once a day as follows:
  - a. Use a Q-Tip, dip the end in hydrogen peroxide. Swipe around the pin site. If there is dry/dead skin, push it away from the pin site.
  - b. Use a fresh Q-Tip and dip it in the sterile saline (purchased at the drug store). Swipe around the pin site.
  - c. Be sure to use a fresh Q-Tip for each pin. Do not put the dirty end of the Q-Tip back into the hydrogen peroxide or sterile saline.
5. Do not put any creams or ointments on the pins unless this is provided by your physician.

If any of your pins fall out or become loose do not push them back in, **call your physician.**

Excessive pain, redness or drainage around the pin may signal infection. **Call your physician** if this occurs.