

## **Extensor tendon rehabilitation – week three to week four**

Information for patients on the Merrit/ICAM regime

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### **Splint**

You must continue to use your finger-based splint all the time. You can remove your wrist splint for light activities. Please continue to use your wrist splint for protection at night, outside the house and at times when your hand may get accidentally knocked (for example, by pets or young children). If one of your splints break and is not protecting your fingers you need to contact us immediately on 020 3299 8220 or 016 8986 6660 for Beckenham Beacon or email on [kch-tr.kingshands@nhs.net](mailto:kch-tr.kingshands@nhs.net).

### **Scar**

Massage the scar regularly with unscented moisturiser to keep it flat and supple.

### **Swelling**

To continue to reduce the swelling, keep your hand raised (above the level of your heart).

### **Hand use**

You can now start to use your hand for light activities such as using light switches, handling money and fastening easy buttons. Do not do any activity that involves resistance. Lifting a full cup of coffee or pint glass is too heavy for this stage. Do not make a firm or tight grip. Do not do any repetitive activities, for example, you can sign your name but do not write a long letter or essay. See advice below what is classified as light hand use.

### **Exercises**

Do all exercises slowly, gently and out of the wrist splint.

**Do each exercise 10 times every 1 to 2 hours and hold for 10 seconds.**

**Please see over page for exercise diagrams.**

### **PALS**

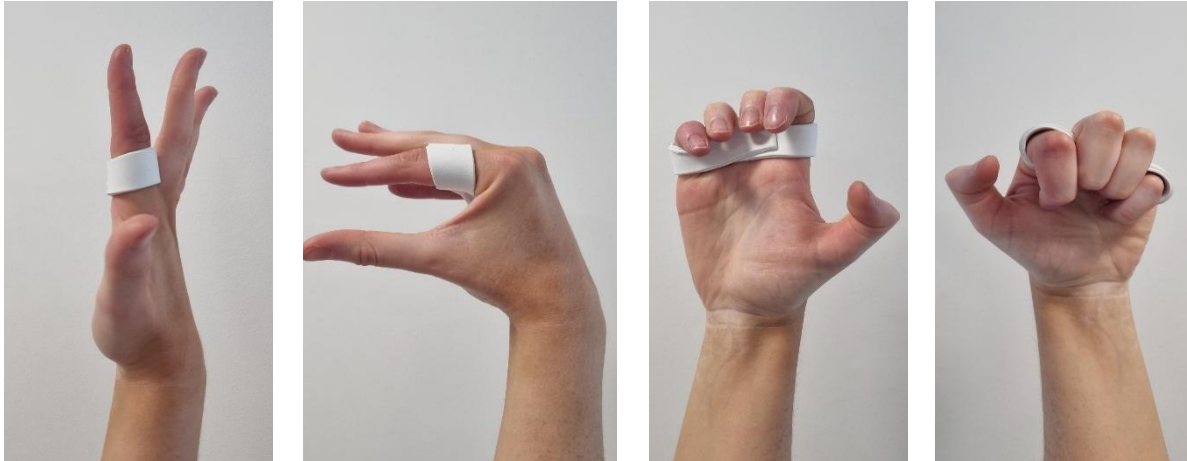
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Tel: 020 3299 4618

Email: [kings.pals@nhs.net](mailto:kings.pals@nhs.net)

**If you would like the information in this leaflet in a different language or format, please contact our Interpreting and Accessible Communication Support on 020 3299 4618 or email [kings.access@nhs.net](mailto:kings.access@nhs.net)**

1. Continue the same finger exercises as previously in the finger splint, but without the wrist splint.



2. Gently bend your wrist forwards with your fingers relaxed and straight. **Do not push.** Hold for 5 seconds.



3. Gently bend your wrist backwards, keeping your fingers relaxed and slightly bent. Hold for 5 seconds.



Light activities	Medium activities	Medium or heavy activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using telephone</li> <li>• Handling money</li> <li>• Playing games, cards or scrabble</li> <li>• Fastening light zips and clothes (not jeans)</li> <li>• Fastening easy buttons</li> <li>• Personal care</li> <li>• Combing short hair</li> <li>• Putting on light make-up</li> <li>• Signing your name</li> <li>• Using a remote control</li> <li>• Using a mouse</li> <li>• Reading a newspaper</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fastening shoelaces</li> <li>• Putting on socks or tights</li> <li>• Holding a small glass</li> <li>• Holding cup</li> <li>• Using fork and spoon</li> <li>• Washing up light utensils</li> <li>• Using scissors</li> <li>• Doing light craftwork</li> <li>• Holding light paper</li> <li>• Writing sentences (not an essay)</li> <li>• Using a keyboard</li> <li>• Turning key in door</li> <li>• Opening doors</li> <li>• Using an electric shaver</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holding pint glass</li> <li>• Carrying shopping bags</li> <li>• Washing up</li> <li>• Using domestic not industrial appliances</li> <li>• Ironing</li> <li>• Vacuuming (don't lift vacuum)</li> <li>• Using a knife</li> <li>• Cooking</li> <li>• Lifting saucepan</li> <li>• Lifting kettle</li> <li>• Using tin opener</li> <li>• Sweeping up</li> <li>• Washing up pans</li> <li>• Hanging out washing</li> <li>• Opening a ring can pull</li> <li>• Unscrewing jars</li> </ul>