



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
PLASTIC SURGEONS®

Informed Consent

Tenolysis Surgery

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INSTRUCTIONS

This is a document to help you learn about Tenolysis surgery. You will learn about its risks and other treatments.

It is important that you read the whole document carefully. Please initial each page. Doing so means you have read the page. Signing the consent agreement means that you agree to the surgery you have talked about with your plastic surgeon.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Tendons connect muscles in your arm to your hand and fingers. The tendons let your muscles move your wrist, hand, and fingers. Cuts, injuries, surgery, or infections can leave scars around your tendons. Age and arthritis can also cause tendon scars. Scarring can limit the use of your hand and make joints stiff.

When tendon scarring happens, you may need surgery to free the trapped tendons. You may also need hand therapy to get the best results.

OTHER TREATMENTS

Other ways of treating tendon scarring include not having surgery. Sometimes hand therapy alone may improve hand use.

RISKS OF TENOLYSIS SURGERY

Every surgery has risks that you should know about. Every surgery also has limits. Choosing surgery involves comparing the risks and benefits. Most patients do not have problems, but you should still talk about them with your plastic surgeon. Make sure you know all the possible outcomes of tenolysis surgery.

Scarring:

All surgeries leave scars. This surgery may leave long, obvious scars in the skin or deeper tissues that do not go away. Scars may be ugly, dark, raised, and red. They may even be itchy or painful. Some patients are prone to keloids—prominent, raised, red scars that remain. You may need further treatments like medication or surgery.

Infection:

Infection can happen after surgery. If you get an infection, you may need to return to the hospital for treatment. This could include antibiotics or more surgery.

Hematoma:

Bleeding after surgery can form a hematoma—a local pool of blood outside the blood vessels. Normally this goes away on its own. If it does not, it may lead to healing problems and you may need to have a doctor drain the fluid.

Wound Opening:

The wounds of a tenolysis surgery can open. This is not a good sign. If this happens, more surgery or other treatment may be needed.

Change in Skin Feeling:

You could have a loss of feeling or change in feeling in the skin of the finger, hand, or arm after surgery. This may not get better.

Damage to Nearby Tissues:

The surgery might damage nerves, blood vessels, bones, or other tissues. The risk of this depends on the type of surgery and how it is done. You may need more surgery if this happens. Injury to nearby tissues may or may not get better.

Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS):

This is rare but can happen after the surgery. You may have CRPS if you have pain, swelling, redness, and more sensitivity. CRPS may get better on its own. If it does not, you might need further treatment.

Loss of Full Use:

Scarring can affect more than just the tendon. Other areas, such as joints, may lose normal motion. Not all damage can be fixed by surgery. Injuries to other tissues and bones may limit tendon use even if tenolysis surgery goes well. In some cases, the damage to the hand may be so bad that full use is not likely to come back. Other parts of the hand and forearm may also have problems. You may need hand therapy after surgery to help you use your hand.

Return of Tendon Scarring:

Scarring can happen again around or near the tendons and block the return of normal tendon use. Surgery may or may not succeed in loosening the tendon from scar tissue that limits motion.

Stiffening of Joints:

You may find it hard to move a joint after the surgery, or a joint's range of motion may be less. You may have redness, tenderness, warmth, tingling, or numbness around the joint.

Tendon Breaks:

Tendons can sometimes break after tenolysis surgery. Breakage of a tendon is a serious problem. If this happens, more surgery is needed to fix the tendon, sometimes with another tendon. It is important that you follow all instructions your doctor gives you after surgery to keep the tendon from damage.

Cuts Made by the Surgeon:

Your surgeon may need to lengthen the wound where the tendon is scarred or make new cuts to get to scars around a tendon.

Change in Tendon Position:

Tenolysis surgery can damage the tendon sheath and its pulleys. If this happens, the tendon may shift to a position where it is less usable. It may not be possible to fix this problem.

DISCLAIMER

Informed consent documents give you information about a surgery you are considering. These documents explain the risks of that surgery. They also discuss other treatment options, including not having surgery. However, informed consent documents can't cover everything. Your plastic surgeon may give you more or different information. This may be based on the facts of your case.

Informed consent documents are not meant to define or serve as the standard of medical care. Standards of medical care are determined based on the facts involved in an individual case. They may change with advances in science and technology. They can also change with the way doctors practice medicine.

It is important that you read the above information carefully and get all your questions answered before signing the consent agreement on the next page.

