

Cohort Study for Patient Outcomes in the Management of Finger Fractures and Joint Injuries (OFFJI study)

You are invited to participate in our study because you have a finger fracture and/or finger joint injury. Please take some time to read this leaflet and consider taking part. Your input will be very much appreciated and will help the management of such injuries in the future.

Hand fractures and joint injuries

Hand fractures (i.e. broken bones) and joint injuries are common. There are 27 bones in the human hand. Any bones or joints in the hand can be fractured/injured (see figure 1). As part of this study we will only look at finger fractures and joint injuries.

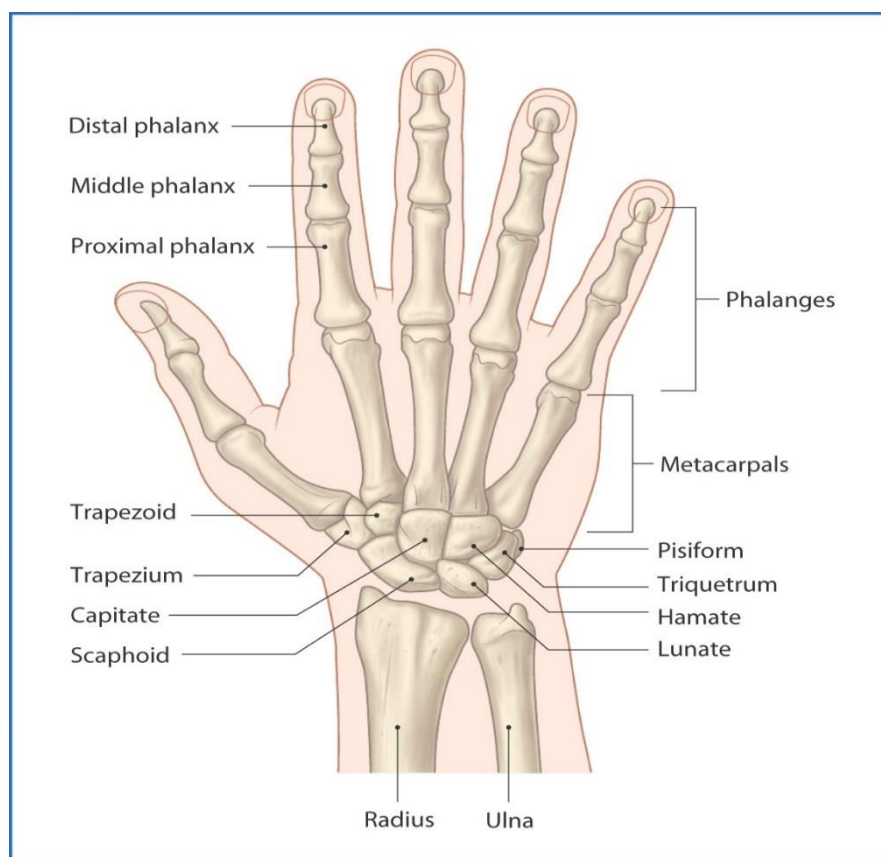


Figure 1: The hand bones¹

¹ Anatomy Diagram. Bones in the hands and wrist (2018). URL: <https://anatomyclass01.us/bones-in-the-hands-and-wrist/bones-in-the-hands-and-wrist-wrist-and-hand-joints-basicmedical-key/> [28th August 2018]

Normal treatment of finger fractures and joint injuries

This includes having the hand operated on, or using different methods to promote healing such as a splint or cast. This is decided by the treating surgeon in discussion with the patient. These injuries can be immobilised using various types of splints or casts, and/or can be treated surgically.

This research study

The aim of this study is to improve the evidence base by informing future clinical trials evaluating different treatments for finger fractures. We aim to gather evidence on the likely recovery time after a finger fracture/joint injury, so that we can plan future studies more effectively.

If you agree to take part in this research study, your treatment plan would still be decided by the surgeon based on their expert medical opinion.

What to expect from taking part in this study?

You will be approached by an investigator who will go through the details of the study with you. He/she will ask for your consent to participate. Participation in this study is entirely voluntary and you can withdraw from this study at any point.

You will be asked to complete some questionnaires in clinic and this should not take more than 10 minutes. Taking part in this study will not affect your treatment in any way. You will be sent a similar questionnaire at 6, 12, 24 weeks either to complete by email or by post.

Interviews

Some of you may be invited for an interview. This would last for about 30-60 minutes. It could be done in the hospital (as part of a clinic appointment), at your own home or by telephone. You will be asked about your experience of having a hand fracture/joint injury, the treatment, and the recovery overall. You will be asked to comment on how to improve such studies in the future based on your experience from participating in the study.

Focus groups

At the end of the study, some of you may be invited to one or two focus groups in which we will discuss the research findings and how a future study should be planned. Your contribution to this will be very much appreciated.

A much smaller number of people are needed to take part in the interviews and focus groups, so it is OK to just take part in the questionnaire study if you prefer.

If you would like further information, please contact:

Dr Christos Mousoulis
PhD student in Academic Orthopaedics
Phone: 0115 82 31113
Email: christos.mousoulis@nottingham.ac.uk

If you do not want to be approached by a researcher, please let a receptionist or a member of the team know