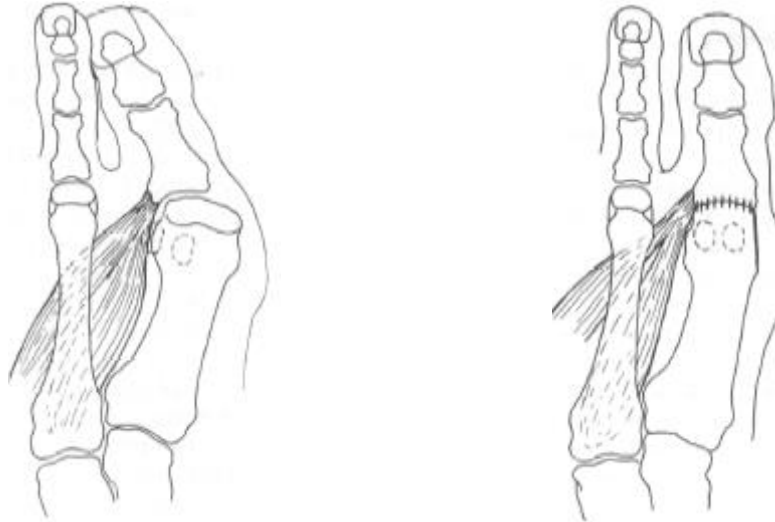


First MTP Joint Fusion

This is required when the big toe joint is too worn or damaged to preserve, and too painful or troublesome to leave without surgery. The main treatment is to remove a section of the joint and fuse the joint stiff so that it does not move. This has the advantage of being a straightforward procedure that leaves the toe more stable.

The disadvantages are that it takes 8 weeks for fusion to complete and this carries a 10% failure rate. This may be the best when stability, not mobility, of this area is essential. Six months recovery time is usual for this procedure.

The success rate for this surgery is 80-90%



Fusion of the First MTP joint

Problems associated with First MTP Joint Fusion Surgery

- Thickened scar and/or tender scar – generally reduces over 12 months. Your risk of this is 1 in 2
- Infection - sudden increase in pain and swelling at 2 – 3 days after surgery or sometimes at a later stage. Your risk of this is small (1 in 100)
- Insufficient correction maintained and/or recurrence of deformity
- Fixation screws may move and therefore may need removal after the bone has healed
- Delayed or Non-union of osteotomy site – may require further surgery. Your risk of this is 1 in 10. This usually requires a bone graft from the hip or lower leg
- Variation of shoe style and heel height greatly restricted
- Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) - A blood clot in the calf or thigh in the muscles of the leg is possible with any surgery. Your risk is very low (less than 1 in 250)
- Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS) - Pain, which will not resolve. Occasionally the 'pain tap' is turned on with surgery and does not switch off again. Your risk is extremely small (less than 1 in 1000)
- Post-operative swelling – can last for up to 12 months