Who can I contact for further information or advice?

If you have any queries please contact the Outpatient Nursing team on:

01273 696955 Ext. 62588

NHS
University Hospitals Sussex
NHS Foundation Trust

the
alex

Outpatient
K-wire removal

CPIG
carer and patient information group approved

Rockinghorse

Parent/carer advice

What are K-wires?

Your child has had wires inserted to help hold their fracture in position. These are called K-wires and they stick out of the skin so that they can be easily removed once the bone has healed. They are covered with a dressing and a plaster cast and your child will not be able to see them until the cast is removed.

When can the K-wires be removed?

The wires will be removed 3-6 weeks after insertion. You will be sent an appointment for the paediatric fracture clinic in Outpatients.

How can I prepare my child for their appointment?

30 minutes before your clinic appointment, we recommend you give your child some simple pain relief like Paracetemol or ibuprofen.

It is sometimes helpful to bring a form of distraction your child likes such as a favourite book or toy. We will have a play specialist to assist with distraction.

Does it hurt?

Before the wires are removed, the plaster cast will be removed in the plaster room. This does not hurt but a noisy machine may be used and your child may feel vibration from the plaster cutter.

The procedure to remove the wires is quick and may feel strange but is not usually too uncomfortable. If necessary, Entonox (gas and air) may be used for pain relief. A nurse will explain how to use this when you attend with your child.

There will be small wounds where the wires were. Small dressings will be applied which can be removed at home.

Your child may be sent for an xray before being seen by the doctor.