

Patient Education



ARNOLD PALMER HOSPITAL
For Children

Supported by Arnold Palmer Medical Center Foundation

The Pediatric Orthopaedic Center
at Arnold Palmer Hospital

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Pin Care

Basic Pin Care

- Wash your hands with soap and water.
- Remove your old bandages.
- Check the condition of each pin site.
- When you clean around the pins, use a new cotton swab for each pin site.

After Showering

- Pour normal saline into a small cup.
- Wet a cotton swab in the normal saline and carefully clean around each pin site. Use light pressure.
- Use a new cotton swab for each pin.
- Throw out the used supplies.
- Wash your hands.

For pin site that is red and/or crusted:

- Pour a mixture of ½ hydrogen peroxide and ½ normal saline into a small cup.
- “Crusting” from the drainage may happen around the pins. Remove the crust when you clean so that the drainage can get out.
- Cover with a 2-inch by 2-inch bandage. For halo traction, don’t use a bandage. Increase the frequency to twice a day.

Call the doctor if you notice any of the following:

- redness, warmth or swelling at the pin site
- thick white, yellow or green drainage
- bad smell coming from the pin site
- severe pain at the pin site
- a fever over 100 degrees F with no obvious cause
- loose pins

For halo patients, also call if:

- there is a change in your ability to move your feet
- you have any feeling of “pins and needles” or burning in your hands or feet
- you have any loss of feeling in your fingers
- you get double vision or crossed eyes
- you have changes in your bowel or bladder function

For Ilizarov patients, also call if:

- there are broken pins
- there are loose nuts
- you can’t turn the nuts