

# Lapidus Fusion with Hallux Valgus Correction

## INTRODUCTION

A bunion (or hallux valgus) refers to an increase in the angulation of the big toe joint (1st metatarsophalangeal joint). The cause of bunions is not fully understood, but there are a number of risk factors including family history, being female and certain types of shoes. Occasionally a severe bunion is associated with arthritis in the midfoot (1st TMT joint) or joint hypermobility. Surgery is an effective way to relieve the pain caused by bunions & arthritis in the majority of cases.

## THE SURGERY

A Lapidus procedure involves a number of steps:

- General anaesthetic, IV antibiotics & tourniquet
- Incision on the inside aspect of the foot
- Removal of any remaining cartilage at the 1st midfoot (TMT) joint and correction of the deformity
- Bone graft harvest (calcaneum or distal tibia)
- Grafting & internal fixation with plates/screws
- Release of the tight lateral structures and repair of the loose medial structures at the big toe joint
- Re-alignment of the 1st proximal phalanx bone (Akin osteotomy), fixed with a screw or staple
- Closure of incisions with sutures
- Local anaesthetic block & surgical camboot

## GUIDELINES FOR POST-OP RECOVERY

### HOSPITAL ADMISSION

- Hospital for 1 night; IV antibiotics + Clexane/Aspirin

### FIRST 2 WEEKS

- Elevate foot and rest
- Strictly NON-WEIGHTBEARING in plaster cast
- Mobilise with knee scooter/crutches/frame
- Boot and dressings to stay dry and intact
- Strong painkillers as required
- Aspirin 100mg and Vitamin D 5000 units per day
- Antibiotics for 5 days
- Wiggle toes to encourage circulation

### 2 WEEK POST-OP APPOINTMENT

- Review by nurse & removal of dressings and sutures
- Fitting of Bunion Sleeve splint

### WEEKS 3-6

- Strictly NON-WEIGHTBEARING in boot
- Surgical boot on at ALL times, including in bed, except for physio/exercises & showers (seated with shower chair)
- Bunion Sleeve on during day, off at night
- Mobilise with knee scooter/crutches/frame
- Elevate foot when resting
- Daily scar massage from 3 weeks post-op
- Aspirin 100mg and Vitamin D 5000 units per day
- Physiotherapy review (arrange first appointment for 2-5 days after the 2-week post-op check)
- **PHYSIOTHERAPY:**
  - General upper body, core, hip and knee exercises
  - Gentle active ankle plantarflexion/dorsiflexion and great toe MTP joint flexion/extension
  - NO midfoot stresses

### 6 WEEK POST-OP APPOINTMENT

- X-ray and review by Dr Zilko

### WEEKS 7-12

- Surgical boot on at all times during the day except for physio/exercises & showers (with shower chair)
- Can sleep out of boot at night
- Elevate foot when resting
- Aspirin 100mg and Vitamin D 5000 units per day
- **PHYSIOTHERAPY:**
  - Commence partial weightbearing in surgical boot with crutches/frame, and progress up to full weightbearing as tolerated
  - Passive and active ROM of ankle, subtalar and forefoot joints

### 12 WEEK POST-OP APPOINTMENT

- X-ray and review by Dr Zilko

### FROM 12 WEEKS

- **PHYSIOTHERAPY:**
  - Transition out of boot into normal supportive shoes
  - Gait re-training
  - Continue lower limb strength and conditioning

Full recovery is usually 6-12 months.

*Every patient's recovery is individual and depends on the severity of the injury/disease and complexity of the surgery.*