



Affix Patient Label

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

This information is given to you so that you can make an informed decision about having **removal of hardware or implant**.

**Reason and Purpose of the Procedure:**

Removal of hardware or implant is done to take out something that was placed into your body during a previous surgery. Examples of items that might be removed include pins, plates, rods, screws, or other implants. These items may need to be removed because they are painful, broken, or near an area of infection.

**Benefits of this surgery:**

You might receive the following benefits. Your doctor cannot promise you will receive any of these benefits. Only you can decide if the benefits are worth the risk.

- Reduced pain
- Improved function
- Improved quality of life

**Risks of Surgery:**

No procedure is completely risk free. Some risks are well known. There may be risks not included in the list that your doctor cannot expect.

**General risks of surgery:**

- Small areas of the lungs may collapse. This can increase the risk of infection, and may require breathing treatments and/or antibiotics.
- Infections are rare, but serious when they occur. Treating infections can require antibiotics, and sometimes additional surgery. In a worst-case scenario, if a wound does not heal or an infection cannot be controlled, it can become necessary to remove the body part, including amputation.
- A strain on the heart (heart attack) or a stroke may occur.
- Bleeding may occur. If bleeding is excessive, you may need a blood transfusion.
- Reaction to the anesthetic may occur. The most common reactions are nausea and vomiting. In rare cases, death may occur. The anesthesiologist will discuss this with you.

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**Risks of this surgery:**

- **The implant/hardware may not be able to be removed.** If the item is broken, or buried in bone or an area that is difficult to get to, your surgeon may choose to leave the item in place.
- **Additional implants/hardware may need to be placed back into you.** If the implant has been placed to fix a broken bone that is still not healed, new hardware may be needed to help the bone heal.
- **Bone filler may need to be placed.** If the hole(s) left behind by the removed hardware leaves your bone weakened, your surgeon may find it necessary to fill the hole. This might be bone from another part of your body, an artificial bone product, or bone cement.
- **Bone can break.** The bone can break at the time of the surgery, or in the days and weeks following the surgery when you resume your activities. In the long term, there may be a weak spot in your bone that could break with another injury.
- **Damage to nerves and arteries can occur.** Nerve damage can cause numbness or weakness in the arms and legs. Artery damage can cause excessive bleeding and may require repair.
- **Blood clots.** Blood clots may form, which can cause pain and swelling. This is called DVT or deep vein thrombosis. Rarely, part of the clot may break off and go to the lungs. This can be fatal.
- **Persistent pain.** Pain may still remain even after the implant is removed, or could even worsen after the surgery.

**Risks associated with smoking:**

Smoking is linked to an increased risk of infections and an increased risk of bone-healing problems. Both can be serious complications.

**Risks associated with obesity:**

Obesity is linked to an increased risk of infection. It can also lead to heart and lung complications and DVT formation.

**Risks associated with diabetes:**

Diabetes can increase the risk of infection, slow wound healing, and slow bone healing.

**Risks specific to you:**

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**Alternative Treatments:**

- Do nothing. You may decide not to have the procedure.
- Pain management (medications)

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**If you choose not to have this treatment:**

- Your doctor can discuss the alternative treatments with you.
- The hardware could break over time, or bone could grow over the hardware. This could make it harder to remove in the future.
- If the hardware is irritating a muscle or tendon, over time the muscle or tendon could break.
- If the hardware is near or in a joint, it could cause too much wear and arthritis.
- Over time the implant/hardware could wear through the skin.

**General Information:**

During this procedure, the doctor may need to perform more or different procedures than I agreed to.

During the procedure the doctor may need to do more tests or treatment.

I understand that in the event of an emergency my doctor may ask a partner to do the surgery.

Tissues or organs taken from the body may be tested. They may be kept for research or teaching. I agree the hospital may discard these in a proper way.

Students, technical sales people and other staff may be present during the procedure. My doctor will supervise them.

Pictures and videos may be done during the procedure. These may be added to my medical record. These may be published for teaching purposes. My identity will be protected.

**Medical Implants:**

Federal laws and rules require patients to be notified of problems with medical devices including implants and hardware. The hospital will keep a record of the implant used during surgery, and will use this information to locate me if there is a problem.

