

Therapeutic Putty Exercises

This leaflet explains more about therapeutic putty exercises for patients with hand or wrist injuries under the care of the St George's hospital hand therapy team. If you have any further questions or concerns, please speak to your therapist.

Why should I do therapeutic putty exercises?

As your hand gets better after injury or surgery, the strength of the muscles may need exercise to enable you to use the hand normally day-to-day. Using therapeutic putty allows you to focus each exercise on specific muscles to encourage full recovery.

How often should I do my exercises?

- Please complete each exercise _____ times.
- Hold each position for _____ seconds.
- Repeat _____ times per day.

Please make sure you only exercise as instructed by your therapist. This will help you get the most use of your hand back long-term.

What exercises should I do?

Only perform the ticked exercises.

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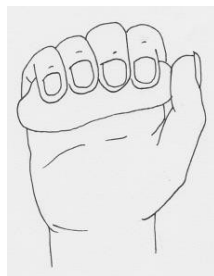
Gross grip

Form a ball with the putty. Squeeze the putty with all your fingers.


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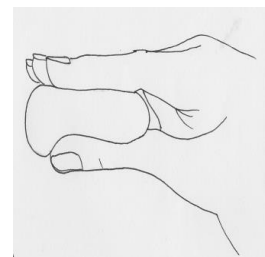
Hook fist

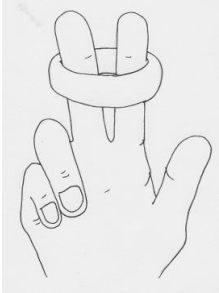
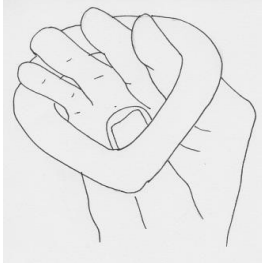
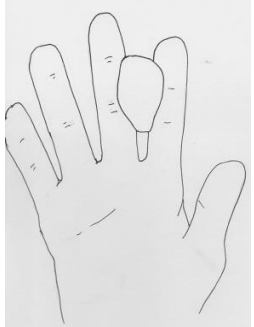



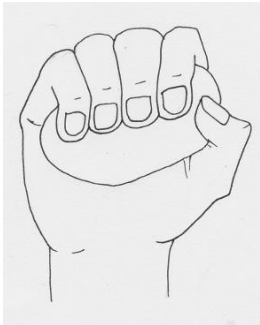

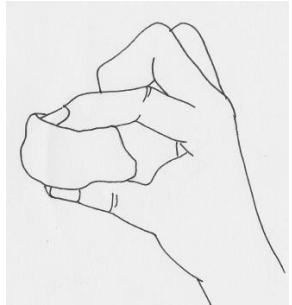
Make a hook fist by bending just the finger joints. Squeeze the putty. Make sure to keep the knuckles straight.


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Flat/table pinch

Squeeze the putty between your thumb and flat, fully extended fingers.



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|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finger abduction Put a tight ring of putty around a pair of fingers. Spread your fingers apart. Repeat for each finger.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Finger abduction Put the putty around your fingers and thumb while the fingers are close together. Spread fingers apart.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Finger adduction Pinch the putty between two fingers. Repeat for each finger.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finger claw Form the putty into a pancake shape. With your fingertips, claw the putty towards you. Make sure to bend your fingers rather than move your arm.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Finger spread Form putty into a pancake. Bunch the fingers together into the putty then spread the fingers all together, enlarging the pancake, keeping your arm still.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Thumb adductor pinch With your hand flat on the table, pinch the putty between your thumb and the side of your index finger.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thumb flexion Grasp the putty. Push your thumb tip into the putty & slowly pull your thumb out  | <input type="checkbox"/> Key Pinch Pinch putty between your thumb tip and the side of your index finger.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Tip Pinch pinch the putty between your thumb tip and the tip of each finger in turn  |

How to look after your therapy:

- Clean your hands before using the putty
- Store in a plastic packet or container in the fridge when you aren't using it
- Keep away from fabrics (clothing, sofas etc.) as it sticks and is difficult to get out of the fabric

Contact us

If you have any questions regarding the information provided in this leaflet, please feel free to discuss them with your therapist at your next appointment. For more urgent queries the team can be contacted on the **treatment enquiries** telephone number listed below.

Your therapist's name is: _____

Treatment enquiries: 020 8725 1038

Appointments: 020 8725 0007

Or scan
here



For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit www.stgeorges.nhs.uk

Additional services

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS can offer you on-the-spot advice and information when you have comments or concerns about our services or the care you have received. You can visit the PALS office between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday in the main corridor between Grosvenor and Lanesborough Wing (near the lift foyer).

Tel: 020 8725 2453 **Email:** pals@stgeorges.nhs.uk

NHS Choices

NHS Choices provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make decisions about your health. **Web:** www.nhs.uk

NHS 111

You can call 111 when you need medical help fast but it's not a 999 emergency. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free from landlines and mobile phones.

Tel: 111

AccessAble

You can download accessibility guides for all our services by searching 'St George's Hospital' on the AccessAble website (www.accessable.co.uk). The guides are designed to ensure everyone – including those with accessibility needs – can access our hospital and community sites with confidence.