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# Hand and Wrist Pain

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## Introduction

Most hand and wrist pain has a very simple cause and can settle with time. The pain may come from soft tissues such as tendons and ligaments or the joints themselves. You can often manage this pain yourself with over-the-counter medication (speak to your pharmacist for advice).

A period of rest from activities that aggravate symptoms can help, however it is important to maintain gentle movements of the hand and wrist to prevent stiffness. Gentle exercises such as the ones below, can help reduce pain and stiffness.

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## Should I see a Medical Professional?

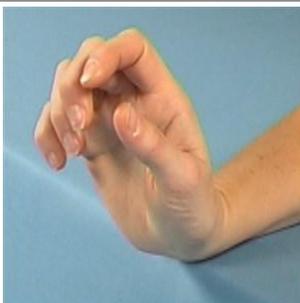
Most cases of hand and wrist pain will improve with time or self-help. However you may need to see your doctor or physiotherapist if you have tingling, numbness or weakness in your hand or if your pain doesn't settle sufficiently.

You should attend A+E if you have injured your hand and wrist, if it is misshapen, swollen, hot, red and severely painful.

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## What can I do to help ease my symptoms?

- Over-the-counter medication can help (speak to your pharmacist for advice)
- Ease up on aggravating activities and try to use your hand and wrist in a different way for a period of time.
- Try and keep the hand and wrist moving.
- Try the general exercises on this sheet.
- Don't worry most symptoms will improve over time.



Forearm supported on a table, hand relaxed over the edge.

Extend the wrist and clench your fist - relax and let your hand drop.

Repeat 10 times.



Hold fingers and wrist straight.

Bend wrist first towards the little finger and then towards the thumb.

Repeat 10 times.

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Support your elbow on a table with your wrist straight and your fingers pointing towards the ceiling.

Make a fist (thumb over fingers). Straighten your fingers and bring them apart.

Repeat 10 times.

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## For further information

The NHS website also provides trusted online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare to help you manage your condition and/or inform your choices about your health: [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk).

## Further Information

Some useful websites to look at:

[All about wrist, hand and finger problems - NHS TIMS](#)

[Versus Arthritis - Osteoarthritis of the hand and wrist information booklet](#)

**Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust**  
**Occupational Health Department**  
**[ghnt.occupational.health@nhs.net](mailto:ghnt.occupational.health@nhs.net)**