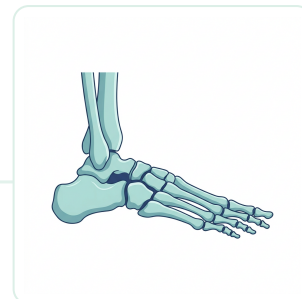


PATIENT EDUCATION · IN-OFFICE MINOR PROCEDURES

Abscess or Paronychia Drainage

An abscess or paronychia is a localized infection around the nail or skin that can cause pain, redness, swelling, and drainage. Wigley Feet evaluates and treats select infections when clinically appropriate.

At a Glance



For educational illustration only.

Focus area	In-Office Minor Procedures
Goal of care	An abscess or paronychia is a localized infection around the nail or skin that can cause pain, redness, swelling, and drainage.
Where it's provided	In our office or a surgical center, based on your evaluation and what is clinically appropriate.
Your next step	A consultation with Dr. Stephen Wigley IV to review your symptoms and options.

Who May Benefit

- Patients with a painful infection around a nail or skin
- Those with redness, swelling, or drainage
- Patients needing timely evaluation of a foot infection

How We Evaluate

- Examination of the infected area
- Assessment of severity and spread
- Discussion of appropriate treatment

When to Seek Care

- Increasing redness, swelling, warmth, or drainage
- Fever with a foot infection
- Worsening pain around a nail or skin area

Treatment Options

- Drainage of select infections when appropriate
- Wound care and infection guidance
- Referral when a higher level of care is needed

What to Expect

1

Timely evaluation and an appropriate plan

2

Aftercare and infection guidance

3

Follow-up with the care team

Your Surgery Journey — Before, During & After

BEFORE SURGERY	DURING SURGERY	AFTER SURGERY
• Complete any requested labs, imaging, or medical clearance • Review your medications with us — some may need to be paused • Follow eating/drinking instructions if anesthesia is planned • Arrange a ride home and loose, comfortable clothing • Wash the foot the night before; remove nail polish if asked	• Local anesthesia numbs the area for most office-based procedures • You may feel pressure or movement, but should not feel sharp pain • Most procedures take roughly 30–90 minutes • Our team monitors your comfort throughout	• A sterile dressing protects the surgical site • You may receive a surgical shoe or boot for walking • Mild soreness is normal as numbness wears off • Written instructions and follow-up scheduling before you leave

Dr. Wigley's Post-Op Instructions

1. Keep the dressing clean, dry, and in place until we remove or change it — no peeking.
2. Elevate the foot above heart level as much as possible for the first 48–72 hours.
3. Apply ice as directed (about 20 minutes on, 20 off) over the dressing — never directly on skin.
4. Take medication exactly as prescribed; stay ahead of pain rather than chasing it.
5. Follow your weight-bearing instructions and wear the surgical shoe/boot whenever walking.
6. No soaking, baths, swimming, or getting the site wet until cleared at follow-up.
7. Call the office right away for: fever over 101°F, spreading redness, foul drainage, bleeding through the dressing, severe pain not relieved by medication, or new calf pain/swelling.
8. Keep every follow-up appointment — healing is monitored at each visit.

Important: These are general guidelines. Always follow the personalized instructions given to you at your visit — they take priority over this handout. Questions after surgery? Call (305) 895-9528.

Common Questions

Is a foot infection urgent?

Spreading infection, fever, or rapid worsening can be urgent. Patients with diabetes or circulation concerns should seek care promptly, and emergencies warrant 911 or the nearest emergency department.

Sources & Further Reading

- MedlinePlus, U.S. National Library of Medicine — medlineplus.gov
- American College of Foot & Ankle Surgeons — FootHealthFacts.org

Questions? Call Wigley Feet at (305) 895-9528 to schedule an evaluation. New patients can also request an appointment at www.wigleyfeet.com.