

CARE OF THE CAST

1. Do not allow pressure to be placed on any part of the cast until it is completely dry. The amount of time for drying varies depending upon the thickness of the cast, temperature, humidity, and so forth. Twenty-four hours is not an unusual length of time for drying.
2. If the cast accidentally gets wet and a soft area appears, call the office for an immediate appointment with the doctor so that it may be repaired.

CARE OF THE PATIENT IN THE CAST

1. Whenever possible, elevate the part of the body enclosed in the cast. This decreases the possibility of swelling of the tissues underneath the cast. For example, prop an arm cast on a pillow laid on the chest.
2. No matter how carefully the injured tissues are handled and no matter how expertly the cast is applied, it is still possible for swelling to occur under the cast. If this happens, one or more of the following symptoms probably will become noticeable:
 - a) Pain - stinging or burning.
 - b) Change in color of the fingertips, such as a change to blue to gray in the nail beds of the fingers.
 - c) Coldness of the fingertips when the remaining part of the body is warm.
 - d) Numbness or complete loss of feeling in the fingertips.
 - e) Swelling of the fingertips to a greater extent than was present before the cast was applied.

If any of the above signs or symptoms occur, you must contact the doctor as soon as possible for further treatment or go to the Emergency Room.