

Compression Gloves

This leaflet offers information on the use and care of compression gloves for patients under the care of St. George's hand therapy team.

How might wearing a compression glove help me?

A compression glove can help to:

- control or reduce swelling
- support joints
- ease painful joints.

What are compression gloves made of?

Gloves made of nylon and Lycra are used in hospital, mainly to control and reduce swelling. You can also buy gloves which are useful for joint pain. These are made from a range of materials such as cotton, Lycra and neoprene.

How do the gloves work?

For swelling, the gentle compression helps to 'push' the excess fluid out of the hand. For joint pain, the gloves provide support, compression and warmth to the joints.

Using the gloves

- Make sure the seams of the gloves are on the outside so there is not too much pressure.
- Make sure the gloves feel snug but not too tight.
- You should wear the gloves for short periods at first to get used to wearing them.
- Do not wear the gloves all through the day (24 hours) as this would be bad for your skin hygiene.
- Make sure your hands are completely dry after washing them before putting the gloves on again.

When should I wear the gloves?

Day time

- Wear as long as needed to help with swelling, pain or stiffness.
- Do not wear while driving as you may not be able to grip.

Night time

- Wear your gloves overnight if you have swelling, pain or stiffness then.
- Always start with day time wear to get used to the gloves and check that they do not have any harmful effects.

What do I need to look out for?

Remove and stop using the gloves and contact your hand therapist if you have:

- numbness
- pins and needles
- itchy skin, redness or increased swelling, which could be an allergic reaction
- skin irritation
- disturbed sleep.

How should I care for my gloves?

Gloves you buy will normally come with care instructions. The following guidelines may also help:

- machine wash your gloves on a delicate cycle or hand wash them
- non-biological washing powders are more gentle on the material the gloves are made from
- do not use fabric conditioner
- lie the gloves flat when drying them
- do not tumble dry or leave on a direct heat source such as a radiator.

Where can I buy compression gloves?

Isotoner or classic oedema gloves, **IMAK** active arthritis compression gloves and **Thermoskin** arthritis gloves can all be bought from www.amazon.co.uk

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about compression gloves, please contact treatment enquiries on 020 8725 1038 (answer phone only, please leave a message and someone will get back to you as soon as possible). For appointment enquiries, please contact 020 8725 3000.

Your therapist is: _____

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 9.30am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday in the main corridor between Grosvenor and Lanesborough wings (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 of 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.



Reference: THE_HTCG_02 **Published:** January 2020 **Review date:** January 2022