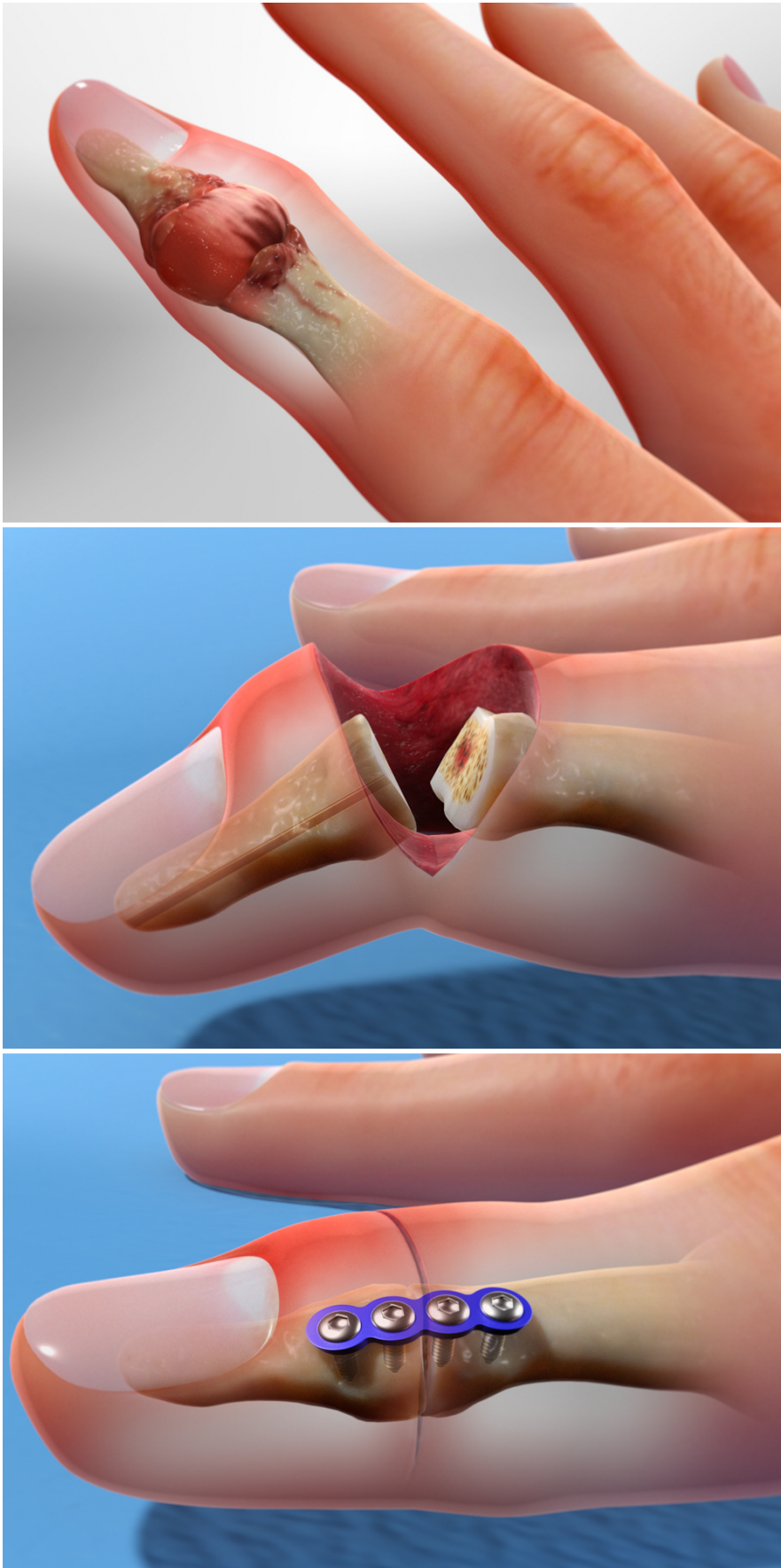




## Finger Joint Fusion (of the DIP Joint)



### Overview

This surgery permanently locks a damaged finger joint to treat severe arthritis pain. After we do this, the treated joint can't bend. Any finger joint can be fused, but most often we fuse the joint nearest the fingertip.

### Preparation

To begin, we give you medicine to make you feel relaxed and numb. You may be put to sleep. Then, we make an incision to reach the damaged joint. We take away the cartilage from the ends of the bones that meet at the joint. We shape the ends of these bones so they fit together neatly.

### Fusion

Now it's time for the fusion. There are several methods for securing these bones. We may use a rod, one or more pins, a plate and screws or some other device to lock the bones together. Over time, new bone will grow between them. This creates a solid fusion.

### End of procedure

After the surgery, we close the incision, bandage your finger and put it in a splint. You may need to wear a cast as you heal. Follow your care tips for a safe recovery.