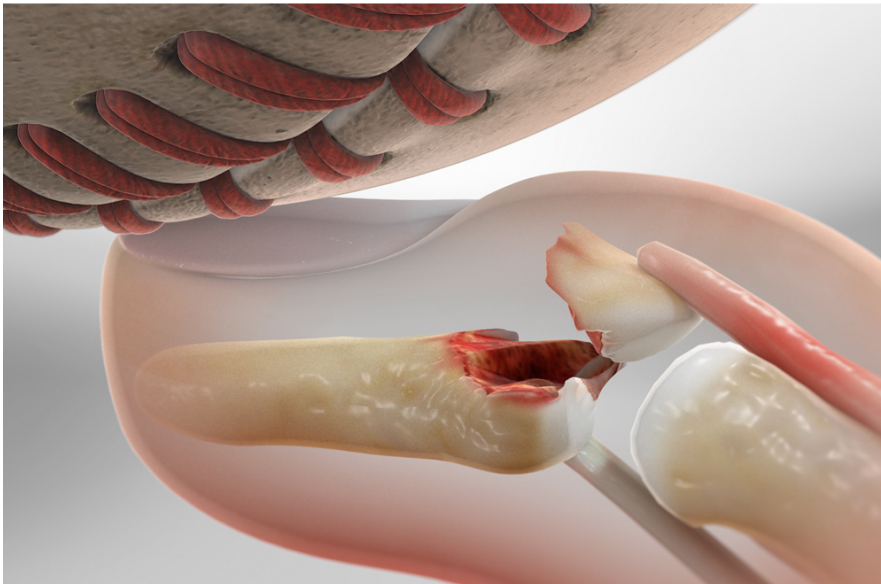
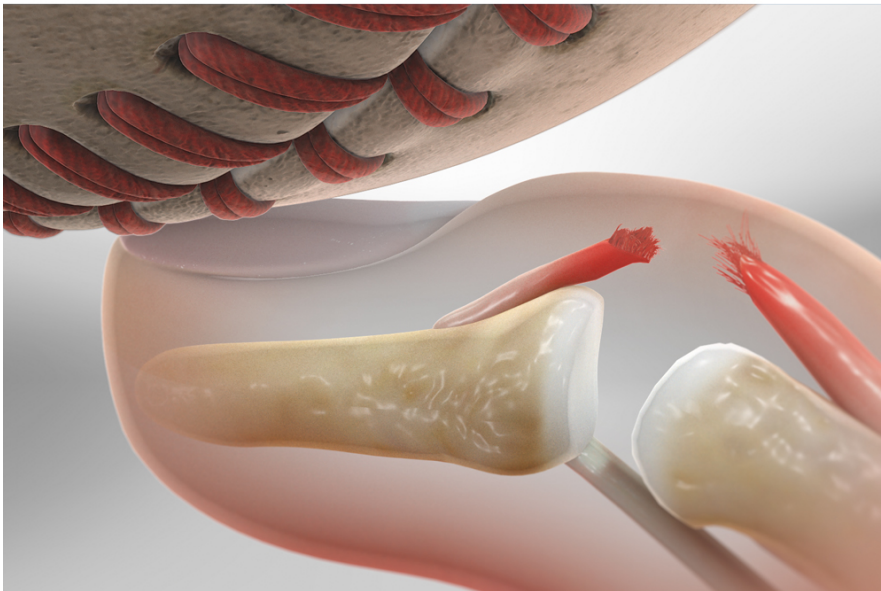
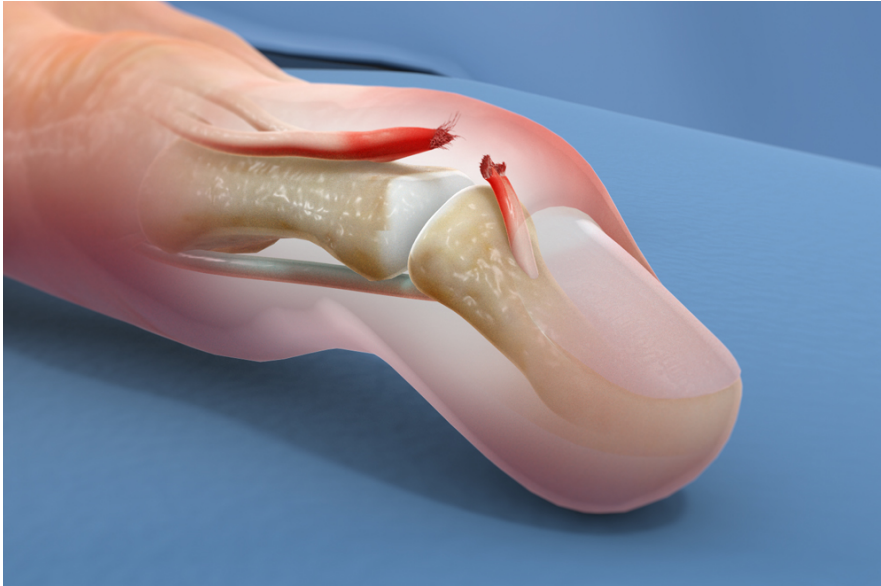




Mallet Finger



Overview

This injury is a stretch or tear of a tendon at the end of a finger or thumb. It causes the tip of your finger or thumb to droop.

Causes

How does it happen? It's typically caused by a forceful strike to an extended finger. This bends the fingertip farther than it should go, and may result in a tear. The tendon may rip away from the bone it's attached to. It may pull a piece of bone with it. Mallet finger often happens to athletes, especially baseball players, who can hurt a finger when trying to catch a ball. But it happens to non-athletes, too. Things like slamming a finger in a car door or banging a finger against a wall can cause it.

Symptoms

What are the symptoms? This injury causes pain, bruising and swelling. The tip of your finger or thumb droops, and you can't completely straighten it.

Treatment

How do we treat it? If your tendon is stretched, we may stabilize your finger or thumb with a splint to allow the tendon to heal. But if you have a serious or complex tear, or if your tendon has detached, we may need to repair it with a surgery. Your doctor will create a plan that's right for you.