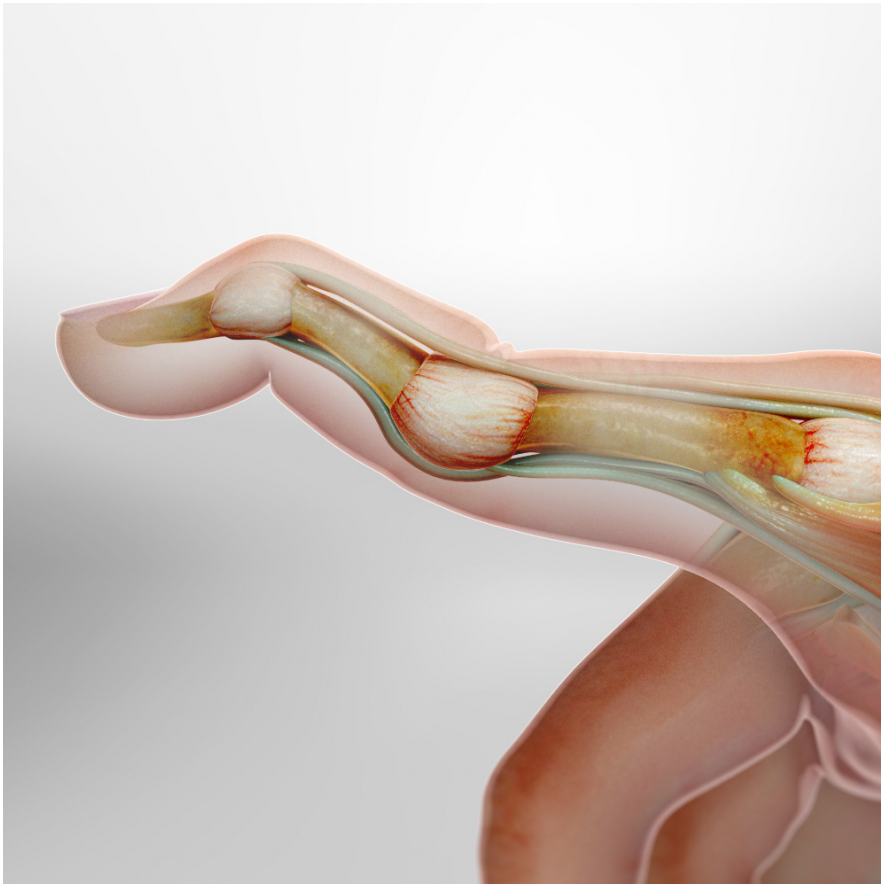




## Swan Neck Deformity



### Overview

This problem can happen in a finger or a thumb. In a finger, the middle joint is bent back and the joint at the fingertip is bent down. In a thumb, the joint at the thumb's base is bent back and the joint at the thumb's tip is bent down.

### Causes

How does it happen? It's commonly linked to rheumatoid arthritis, which damages joints and tissues in the fingers. It also may result from other joint diseases, or when a ligament below a finger's middle joint stretches or tears.

### Symptoms

What are the symptoms? First is the way it looks. Some say the finger looks like a swan's neck from the side. It also may feel stiff. And when you try to bend it, you may feel a snapping sensation as the tendons flex. This can be painful. As your condition progresses, you may lose your ability to bend it.

### Treatment

How do we treat it? It depends on the severity. If it's minor, you may not need treatment. You may benefit from a splint or a special ring that you wear to keep your finger or thumb in the correct position. For a severe swan neck deformity, you may need surgery. Your doctor will create a plan that's right for you.