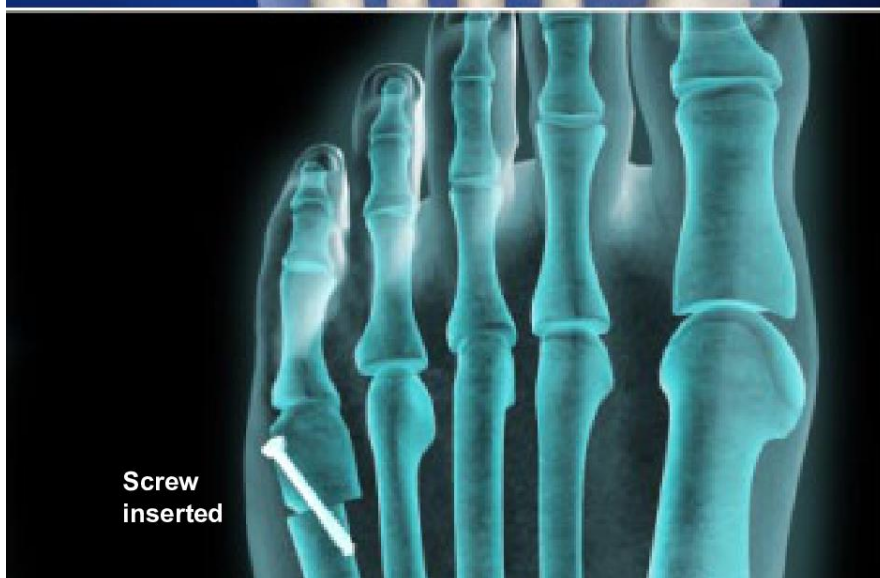




Bunionette Deformity Correction (Distal Fifth Metatarsal Osteotomy)



Overview

This surgical procedure is performed to correct a bunionette, a bony bump on the outer side of the foot at the base of the fifth toe. During this procedure, the surgeon realigns the head of the metatarsal and removes excess bone to eliminate the prominence and give the foot a more natural shape.

Preparation

In preparation for the procedure, the patient is positioned and anesthesia is administered. The surgeon creates a small incision along the outer side of the foot to access the metatarsophalangeal joint, where the phalanx of the toe meets the head of the metatarsal. The bunionette is located on the head of the metatarsal.

Realigning the Toe

The surgeon uses a cutting instrument to remove excess bone growth from the metatarsal. Then, the surgeon carefully divides the metatarsal, freeing the head of this bone. The head of the metatarsal is shifted inward, away from the outer side of the foot, reducing the width of the foot and providing a more stable base for the fifth toe. The surgeon inserts a screw through the head of the metatarsal, locking it in place.

End of Procedure and Aftercare

When the procedure is complete, the incision is closed and the foot is bandaged. The patient may be placed in a postoperative shoe and allowed to bear weight on the foot. Most patients will recover within six to eight weeks.