

been described to feel like a bee sting. Your hand will be dressed in bandage for comfort and to prevent excessive movement of the hand.

Current recommendations are for only one cord to be treated at each appointment with further digits treated sequentially.

## What are the potential side effects of Xiapex?

The most commonly reported side effects are swelling, bruising, pain, bleeding at the injection site, tearing of the skin over the cord, localised itching and swollen lymph glands. However, most of these adverse effects are described by patients as only mild or moderate and are short lived. More severe side effects can occur but are rare: tendon rupture (rate 0.1%), allergic reaction, and damage to nerves resulting in numbness or tingling in your fingers.

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## What is Dupuytren's disease?

Dupuytren's is a common condition that affects the hands and fingers. The first symptom of the disease is usually growth of small lumps of tissue on the palm of the hand. Other symptoms are unusual dimples, thickening of the skin, or tenderness around the palm. Over time, as the disease progresses, it can make it impossible for you to straighten your fingers and may eventually be pulled into a permanently bent position. This may result in you struggling, for example, to wash your face, put on gloves, shake someone's hand, type on a computer keyboard or handle tools. However, these complications may take months or years to develop.

The most commonly affected digit is the ring finger, followed by the little finger and then the middle finger. Several joints and fingers can be affected at the same time but the most frequently affected joints are the metacarpophalangeal (knuckles) and proximal interphalangeal (above the knuckles).

## What causes Dupuytren's?

The exact cause of Dupuytren's is not well understood but there is a genetic component to the condition with people of Northern European ancestry

more likely to suffer from the condition. Dupuytren's contracture has been associated with liver cirrhosis, diabetes, alcoholism, epilepsy medication, and after direct trauma.

## What are the treatment options?

Most contractures do not require treatment however, in severe cases that affect normal hand function and intervention is necessary. Traditionally, surgery was performed to excise the responsible thickened fibrous tissue. Needle fasciotomy is a less invasive technique that involves division of their thickenings with a needle. After surgery patients are required to be splinted with their hand straight may attend hand physiotherapy. Both techniques are associated with high recurrence rates.

## What is Xiapex®?

Xiapex is the first medicine licensed for treatment of Dupuytren's contracture in adults. Xiapex is injected into the cord that has formed in the palm of your hand. The treatment starts with two visits to hospital, one to receive the injection and another to straighten the finger. The injection works by using an enzyme called Collagenase, which

breakdown the cord. If successful your doctor will then be able to break the cord and straighten your finger.

## Are there any reasons I cannot have the injection?

If you have had a previous allergic reaction to a Xiapex injection

The injection is not suitable if you suffer from bleeding problems or you take medications that thin your blood, such as aspirin, clopedogril, or Warfarin

The injection is not recommended if you are pregnant

Xiapex is not recommended if you have taken Tetracycline antibiotics (such as Doxycycline) 14 days before your injection

## Where and how is the Xiapex administered?

The injection can either be done in the outpatient department or in theatre. If the procedure is performed in theatre, this will be performed without anaesthesia and as a day case procedure.

First, your doctor may mark the site of injection on your hand with a pen before cleaning it with anti-septic to reduce the chance of infection. The Xiapex is then injected directly into the fibrous cord in your hand which has