**Nev Davies**

**Reading Children’s Orthopaedic Unit**

**Information for Families – Bunionette Surgery**

**What is an Bunionette ?**

This uncommon condition causes a prominent swelling and bump at the base and outside of the little toe.

**What are the symptoms of a bunionette ?**

The main concern is rubbing and redness associated with the bump. As it gets bigger it can rub more causing pain, hard skin and blistering, as well as difficulties getting shoes to fit. It usually starts to cause problems after the age of 10 years.

**What does the operation involve ?**

The operation is done under a general anaesthetic as a day case procedure. We also numb the toe with local anaesthetic. It’s quite a big operation through a medium sized scar along the side of the toe. The bump is shaved off and the bone is cut and reset in a much straighter position. It is held with tiny orthopaedic screws. This is done under X ray control during the surgery. I use dissolvable stitches as well as paper stitches and a big wool and crepe dressing.

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**What is the aftercare?**

It’s really important to elevate the foot for 72 hours after the operation. This helps the swelling settle and aid healing. I use a temporary splint (half plaster) with a heel-walking shoe. Crutches are useful but not essential to get around, particularly at school. I see patients at about 2 weeks after the operation, in clinic, to check the scar is healing, redress the wound and get an x ray. Most patients would slowly wean into a shoe with a nice wide toe box at this stage. Return to sports and activities is allowed after a final check and x ray at about 8 weeks.

**What is the Success rates ?**

The vast majority of families are very happy with the result. There is always a small chance of problems but this is rare.

**What are the risks of surgery ?**

The risks of surgery are small and include the general surgical risks any surgery, these include: infection, ugly scar, skin numbness and the specific risks of this operation – , fracture recurrent deformity, tendon damage. I will discuss all this in detail with you before we proceed.