

# MIKE FOSTER

## Hand Wrist and Elbow Removal of Metalware

### Problem

- Pain or discomfort over prominent metalware or desire not to have the metal in the body

### Cause

- Metal plates, screws, wires can often be felt beneath the skin in areas with little soft tissue padding

### Diagnosis

- Prominent metalware can usually be felt
- X-rays can show if screws are backing out or if plates are prominent
- Occasionally CT scans are required.

### Treatment

- Surgical
  - o Usually General Anaesthetic
  - o Day Stay
  - o Metalware usually removed through existing scars

### Potential Complications

- Infection, Haematoma, Neurovascular Injury
- Broken screws – unable to be removed.

### Post Op Care

- Firm Dressing to prevent bruising
- Early mobilisation –  
Underlying bone should be healed prior to metalware removal