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Syndactyly

Syndactyly is a congenital condition characterized by the fusion of two or more digits (fingers or toes) due to incomplete separation during fetal development. It can occur as an isolated anomaly or as part of a syndrome, such as Apert syndrome.

Syndactyly can present in various forms, including:

Simple syndactyly: Involves only soft tissue fusion between the digits, with individual bones and joints being separate. This type of syndactyly is more common and typically involves the skin and sometimes underlying tissue.

Complex syndactyly: Involves fusion of both soft tissue and bone, resulting in a more intricate fusion of the digits. This type may involve abnormal bone development and joint fusion.

The severity of syndactyly can vary, ranging from a minimal fusion of skin to a more extensive fusion involving multiple digits and joints. Syndactyly can affect one or both hands and/or feet and may involve any combination of digits.

Treatment for syndactyly usually involves surgical intervention to separate the fused digits and reconstruct the affected structures. The timing of surgery depends on factors such as the extent of fusion, the presence of associated anomalies, and the overall health of the individual. The goal of surgery is to improve hand or foot function, appearance, and overall dexterity. Physical therapy and occupational therapy may also be recommended as part of the rehabilitation process following surgery.

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