About the Doctor

Woodward L. Coleman, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Woodward Coleman, M.D., F.A.C.S. specializes in joint reconstruction, complex fractures, surgery of nerves and arteries, repair and reconstruction of tendons, and fingertip reconstruction. He is Board Certified in Plastic Surgery with additional qualification in surgery of the hand.

Dr. Coleman is a graduate of Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi. He earned his Doctor of Medicine at the University of Mississippi. He completed a five-year general surgery residency at the University of South Carolina. Dr. Coleman was then chosen for a fellowship at the Christine Kleinert Institute for Hand and Microsurgery in Louisville, Kentucky. Only eight American Surgeons and six international surgeons throughout the world are chosen to train in this prestigious program. After completion of a full hand fellowship, he continued with a residency in plastic and reconstructive surgery that included further microsurgery training with Dr. Harry Bunckie, considered the pioneering grandfather of microsurgery.

Dr. Coleman is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and diplomat of the American Board of Plastic Surgery, a member of the American Society for Plastic Surgeons, the American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery, the American Society for Surgery of the Hand, and the American Association of Hand Surgeons. He is also a member of the American Medical Society and the San Antonio Surgical Society. He holds an appointment as assistant clinical professor for the Division of Plastic Surgery at UT Health Science Center, San Antonio. Dr. Coleman is the co-author of a chapter in the textbook "Plastic Surgery Principles and Practice" edited by the Chairman of Emory University's Surgery Department.

Dr. Coleman says, "If there is one forte I hold above all others, it is the informed patient. I take great efforts to ensure that there are no unpleasant surprises after surgery. I take as much time as necessary, with subsequent appointments at no charge, until the patient and I are content with the information and feel confident moving forward with the procedure. "

Dr. Coleman and his wife have 3 children, all excelling in their fields. His oldest daughter graduated from the UT Plan II honors program and UT Law School, where she was the editor for the Law Review. She is practicing in Austin. His son is a personal banker in Huntington Beach, California and his youngest daughter is presently a student at UT Austin.

APPOINTMENTS: (210) 251-4362

8715 Village Drive, Ste. 504, San Antonio, TX 78217

Fingertip Repair with the Neurovascular Flap

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The Hand & Thumb Specialty Centers

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Fingertip Repair with the Neurovascular Flap

The Neurovascular Advancement flap has been in existence for more than 25 years. Originally published by Dr. Tsu Minh Tsai at the Kleinert-Kutz Hand Institute where Dr. Coleman trained. While at the fellowship in Louisville, Dr. Coleman learned the technique from Dr. Tsai at its beginning stages and has refined the technique over the past 26 years.

Dr. Coleman published a teaching video, in 1994 that is included in the video library for the American Society of Reconstructive Microsurgeons (towards end).

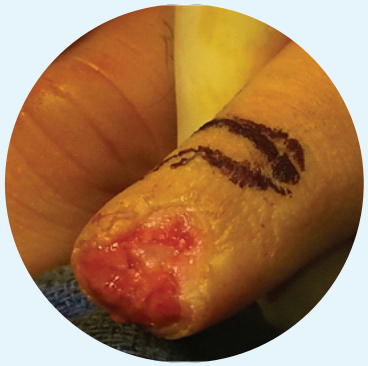
The flap brings sensation, padded skin and soft tissue to amputated fingertips, and recreates a normal appearance. Aesthetically, it is almost un-noticeable in all but the most severe amputations.

Because of its technical difficulty and the need for delicate technique, most orthopedic hand surgeons do not offer this as a solution for fingertip trauma, so there are very few centers nationwide where patients have the opportunity to restore their fingers.

Dr. Coleman presently performs this technique almost weekly, and has more experience with the technique than any other surgeon in the nation.

There is an art to designing the flap so that it results in a normal looking finger. In over 500 cases, there has not been one failure.

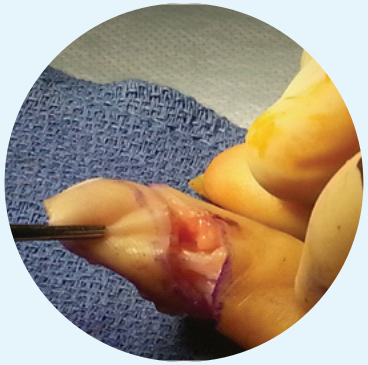
At 6 months, the nail has regrown, and the scars are barely noticed because they followed the fingerprint ridges. Results can vary, but sensation, and padding is always vastly improved.



The Procedure

One week after amputation. Repair is often delayed to allow for identification and removal of non-viable tissues.

The flap is designed with a dorsal tail that contains veins from the flap. The flap has one digital artery and nerve entering the flap.



The flap is released from the finger except for the vessels and nerves to allow for up to one cm. of advancement.

It is repositioned and tailored to provide a precise and aesthetically pleasing cover over the tip of the finger.

The surgery takes about an hour, and is done on an outpatient basis under regional anesthesia.

It is often combined with other procedures to repair or reconstruct the nail bed.