



PRESS RELEASE

Contact:

Logan Stewart Kureczka

704.323.2486

logan.kureczka@orthocarolina.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHY DOES REMOVING A CAST TICKLE?

One of your most burning questions, answered

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (December 27, 2018) – Removing a cast at the doctor’s office can really tickle, and there’s true science behind the reason why. After a break, fracture, sprain or dislocation, a cast allows bones to stay in place as they heal, and beyond that smile you may actually end up giggling. Many patients report that having a cast removed tickles or makes their skin feel fuzzy or numb. Why does a saw make you laugh? The blade is oscillating and by moving back and forth quickly it can cut right through the hard cast but never injure your skin. That fast movement causes micro vibrations that result in the funny tickle feeling.

“Being injured is never fun, but there are a few fun facts about casts beyond the fact that all your friends can sign them,” says Thinh Tran, certified medical assistant with OrthoCarolina’s [Pediatric Orthopedic Center](#). “Having a cast removed is always a reason to smile because it means your bones have healed.”

There is a chemical reaction happening

What do your cast and a boat have in common? They’re both made of fiberglass. The tiny strands of glass are dipped in resin and exposure to water causes a chemical reaction making the fiberglass harden to a state that’s even stronger than cement or steel. That means the compound that’s protecting your bones is both strong and lightweight.

The cast removal saw doubles as a vacuum

The oscillating saw blade that zips through fiberglass but is gentle on your skin also has a vacuum attachment. As the technician makes two cuts with the saw to remove the cast, the vacuum sucks up the resulting dust along the way.

Splints are half-casts

Many folks wonder about casts *versus* splints but it’s more like casts *and* splints. Because a splint is hard on just one side it’s often referred to as a “half cast.” This allows the splint to keep your bones in place while accounting for any swelling that may happen as you heal. That means casts and splints can actually work together with the splint being used until swelling has subsided, then a cast to keep everything snug as healing happens.

[WATCH A CAST TICKLE AS IT’S REMOVED.](#)

About OrthoCarolina

With expert physicians and care providers in locations throughout our region, OrthoCarolina is one of the nation's leading orthopedic practices and your destination for comprehensive orthopedic care. Our expertise in the areas of foot and ankle, hand, hip and knee, shoulder and elbow, spine, sports medicine and pediatrics to offer a continuum of care unmatched in our region — and throughout the country.

OrthoCarolina. You. Improved.

Connect with OrthoCarolina at orthocarolina.com or on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

###