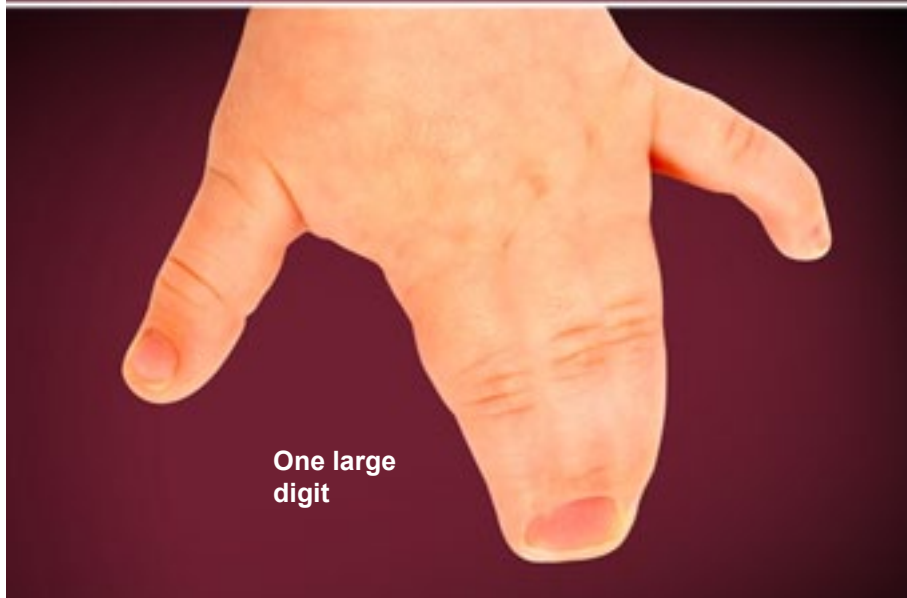
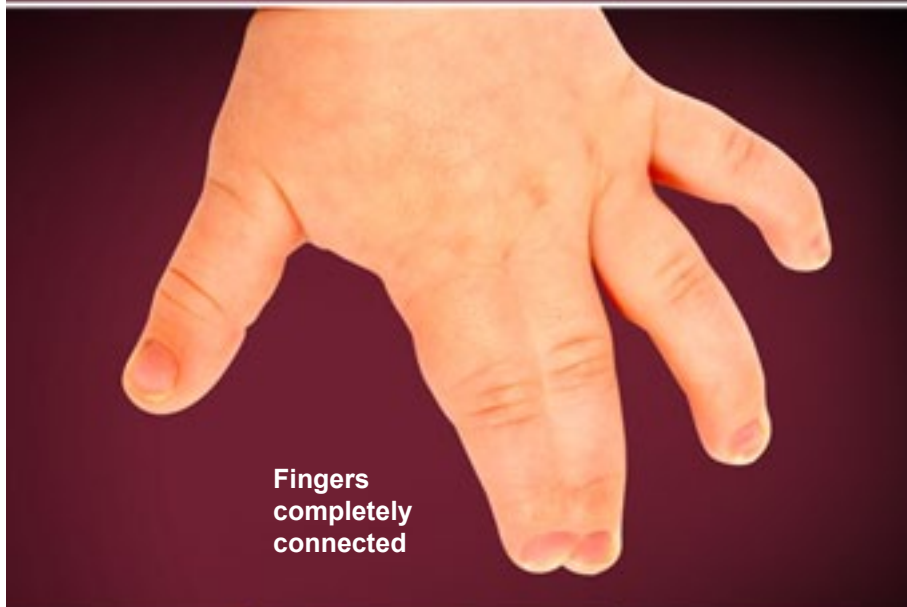
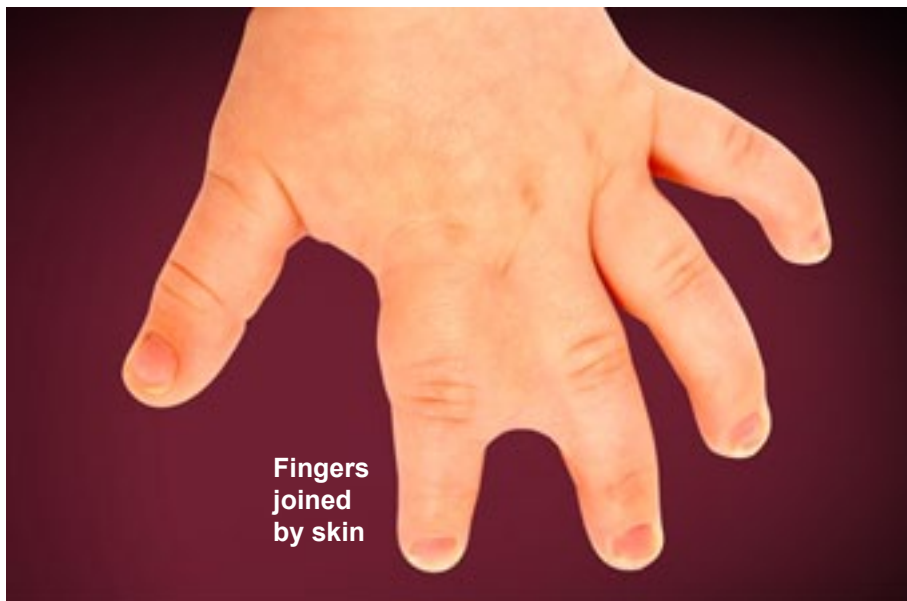


## Syndactyly of the Hand



### Overview

This condition is a common congenital anomaly of the hand. It occurs when two or more fingers are connected together by skin or tissue. The bones of the fingers may also be fused.

### Causes

Syndactyly occurs during the development of the fetus. In most cases, the fingers fail to separate because of a genetic defect. In some cases, syndactyly has also been caused by abnormalities of the womb, and from exposure to toxins in the womb. A baby who has syndactyly may not have any other problems, but this condition can also occur along with other disorders.

### Variations

Syndactyly is characterized by a joining together of one or more fingers. In minor cases, two or more fingers may be connected by only a slight amount of skin. This creates a webbing effect between the fingers. More severe cases may involve the fingers being completely connected by skin or tissue. The fingers may share a single artery or nerve. The bones may also fuse together. The connected fingers may appear as one large digit.

### Treatment

Syndactyly is treated with surgery. If the syndactyly is minor, the surgeon will cut the webbing between the fingers, bandage the hand and place the arm in a cast while it heals. In more severe cases, the fingers will be separated, and a skin graft from another part of the body will be used to help cover the fingers. In some cases, surgery may not be recommended.