Within the UK most flexor tendon injuries are treated as urgent and repaired within 2 weeks. However, every so often patients present well beyond that period. These patients are then usually only offered a two-stage repair. We present a series of 7 patients who presented later than 2 weeks and underwent a delayed primary repair.

### Cases

- 7 patients aged between 24-77 years
- 4 Males and 3 Females
- Over 10 a year period
- 8 tendons repaired:
  - Little finger: 4, Ring finger: 2, Middle: 1, Thumb: 1
  - Delay in presentation ranged from 14 to 78 days
  - Most injuries were in Zone 1 and 2 & involved FDP or FPL
- Preoperatively all had normal supple joints

### Methods

- All these patients were offered:
  1) Delayed primary repair if possible or,
  2) Stage 1 of a 2 stage repair if primary repair was not possible.
- Repair was either modified Kessler or a 4 strand repair.
- Following surgery all patients underwent hand therapy with early active mobilization

### Results

- Post operatively all had good to full range of movements
- There were no reported ruptures post operatively

### Summary

- If patients present late within Z1 and Z2 they should still be explored **urgently** and attempt made to repair primarily
- A delay in presentation alone should not deny them from being given the option of an attempt of primary repair
- We still do not know how long is **too** long
- In some cases it may be possible to carry out repair up to 90 days