# Local-only Hand Surgery (“WALANT”)

## What is WALANT?

* **WALANT** is short for “**W**ide **A**wake, **L**ocal **A**nesthesia, **N**o **T**ourniquet”
* Hand surgery that’s performed with just local anesthesia, no sedation
* A tested, proven, and safe technique that has revolutionized hand surgery
* Usually the preferred patient choice compared to sedation

## Why would I want to have WALANT surgery?

* **Better outcomes** –Some procedures require tissues to move and glide smoothly for the best outcomes. Being awake, without any pain, you can move a repaired or released tendon so the surgeon can see any potential problem areas, and fix them immediately.
* **More time with your surgeon** to ask questions and/or learn post-op instructions
* ***Less* pain**: Traditional hand surgery requires an uncomfortable tourniquet and an IV.
* **Saves time**: With anesthesia, you have to undergo pre-op testing. Not for WALANT.
* **No fasting before surgery**: When you don’t undergo anesthesia, you don’t need to fast.
* **Quicker surgery visit**: After the procedure is done, you can simply get up and walk out.
* **No driver needed:** Patients may be able to drive to & from the procedure, depending what is done.
* **Less risk**: There are more risks when you undergo anesthesia. If you have medical problems that have prevented you from undergoing anesthesia, hand surgery may now be an option.
* **Decreased cost**: With today’s high-deductible health plans, we all have to think about the cost of a procedure. WALANT does not have the costs of pre-operative testing, or anesthesiologists, and takes shorter time in the hospital and less materials, and thus it is significantly cheaper.

## Anything else should I know?

* Some patients experience an “adrenaline rush” feeling when the anesthetic is injected. This is a brief and normal reaction – the injection contains epinephrine (adrenaline).
* The area may temporarily turn white from the epinephrine. This is also normal.
* The numbness usually lasts roughly 2-6 hours after surgery and slowly goes away.
* You’ll still feel touching on other (non-numbed) parts of your hand/arm during surgery.