

23rd April 2010

Advice for students and parents of students with upcoming State Examinations

The Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate Examinations are critical in the life of students. Failure to perform or even fear of failure can affect the future of an individual student. Injuries to fingers and hands are a serious impairment to performance as they prevent or impede a student's ability to write.

At this time of the year it is not uncommon for students to attend Emergency Departments (EDs) with hand and finger injuries following sport, particularly sports that involving catching balls (Gaelic Football, Hurling, Rugby and Basketball).

While the general principle that sport is good for people is accepted, nonetheless the Irish Association for Emergency Medicine recommends that students and their parents consider carefully participation in such sports in the 6 weeks prior to such important examinations.

While EDs and other hospital services will obviously facilitate students with confirmed significant hand injuries with a letter for school authorities indicating their disability, prevention is invariably better than trying to rectify the problem after it has happened!

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