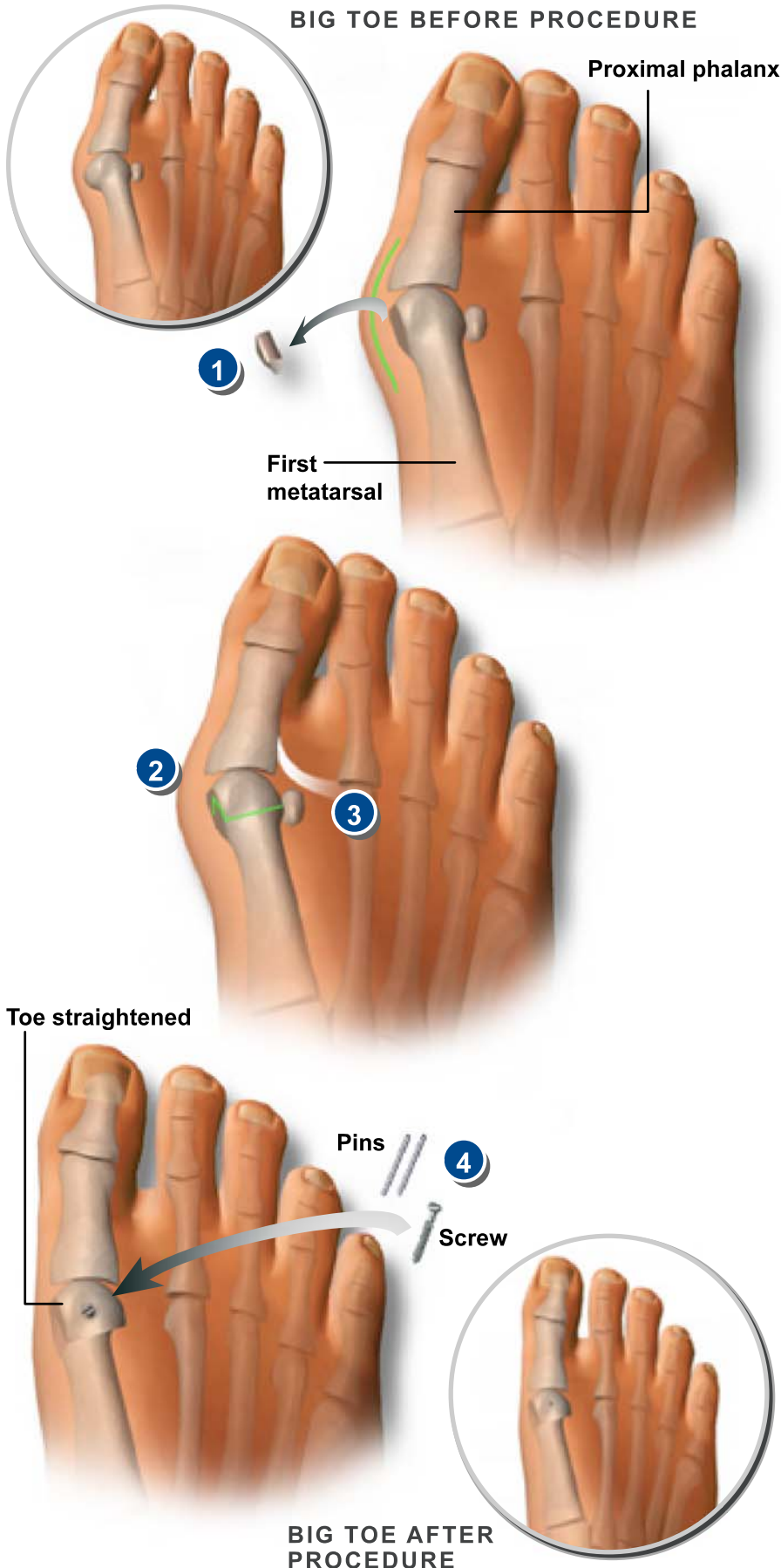


## BUNIONECTOMY WITH DISTAL HEAD OSTEOTOMY



### Overview

A bunionectomy is performed to correct a deformity of the toe joint. One of the most common and effective bunion removal procedures is an osteotomy, which removes a portion of bone from the big toe.

### 1. Bunionectomy

Through an incision, the bunion, or part of the bone that sticks out, is removed with a surgical saw or chisel. In some cases, this may be enough to correct the deformity. But in more severe cases, extra correction is needed.

### 2. Osteotomy

A cut is made at the head of the first metatarsal. This allows the head to be repositioned.

### 3. Realignment

Before realigning, tendons that attach to the big toe may have to be cut, or released, to relieve the inward pull on the toe.

### 4. Fixation

Once the bones of the joint have been realigned, they may be stabilized (fixated) with pins, screws or sutures. The incision is closed and stitched up.

### After Care

Depending on the type of osteotomy and fixation, a walking cast, splint, or special shoes may be worn for several weeks. Normal activities can usually be resumed after the bones and soft tissues heal within six to eight weeks.