

## Ankle Fracture Surgery

### Overview

The ankle “breaks” when there is a fracture in the small bone of your lower leg (the fibula), a fracture in the larger bone (the tibia), or both. Surgery may be required, so that your ankle bones can be stabilized to heal.

### Preparation

Most ankle fracture surgeries require general anesthesia, where the patient is put to sleep. The surgeon will open up your ankle by making incisions in your skin a various locations. The surgeon will carefully inspect your ankle and remove any loose pieces of bone that are found.

### Stabilization

Surgeons operate on broken bones when they believe the bones need to be held together internally. Surgical hardware - such as screws, plates, rods, or wires - will be used to stabilize the broken bones and keep them aligned for full healing.

### End of Procedure

When the surgery is finished, the incisions are closed by stitches or staples. To eliminate any movement at the surgery site, your ankle is immobilized by a hard brace, splint, or cast. You are watched for a brief time and will most likely be sent home that same day. You will have follow-up visits with your surgeon or doctor, and will likely be referred to physical therapy.

