Referred as eligible by surgeons (n=218)

Excluded (n=64)
- Declined to participate (n=46)
- Excluded for other reasons (n=18)

Randomized (n=154)

Allocated to splint group (n=77)
- Received allocated intervention (n=76)
- Did not receive allocated intervention reasons: declined to wear splint (n=1)

Lost to follow-up (n=1)
reasons: not contactable (n=1)

1° outcome analysed at 3 months (n=76)

1° outcome analysed at 6 months (n=75)
Lost to follow-up (n=2)
reasons: not contactable (n=2)

1° outcome analysed at 12 months (n=71)
Lost to follow-up (n=4)
reasons: died (n=1), hospitalised (n=1), not contactable (n=2)
Missing data (n=2)
reason: DASH not returned despite reminders

Allocated to non-splint group (n=77)
- Received allocated intervention (n=69)
- Did not receive allocated intervention (n=8)
reasons: mistakenly given splint prior to randomisation (n=1); requested by surgeon (n=7)
13 patients developed contractures and were splinted as 'per protocol'

Lost to follow-up (n=1)
reasons: ill health (n=1)

1° outcome analysed at 3 months (n=76)

1° outcome analysed at 6 months (n=76)
Lost to follow-up (n=1)
reasons: working abroad (n=1)

1° outcome analysed at 12 months (n=75)
Lost to follow-up (n=2)
reasons: ill health (n=1), working abroad (n=1)