

Mayo Clinic Minute: 3D-printed cast makes for a more hygienic recovery

NATS	(Sawing)
	Out with the old.
	In with a new, more hygienic way to heal thanks to 3D printing technology.
NATS	"Does that pinch?"
	In about 90 minutes, a scan of the injured area is turned into a digital model then printed using specialized equipment and supplies.
Daniel Montero, M.D. Orthopedic Surgery Mayo Clinic	"With traditional casting, we have to keep it dry. And that can be a pain, especially for bathing and for hygiene. But with these newer 3D splints, and casts, they are allowed to get wet."
	Dr. Daniel Montero, a Mayo Clinic orthopedic surgeon, says that includes sweating, which will allow someone wearing the cast to stay physically active.
	"Excited to use this with our athletes and keep them in the game."
	Unlike a fiberglass cast, which transmits the force of impact to the bone, the polymer material used in a 3D-printed cast disperses force evenly across the surface. For now, patients with traditional wrist fractures are candidates for the new cast.
	"There'll be other applications in the future as we continue to study and fine tune the technology."
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Alex Osiadacz.