

Nerves & Vessels:

Vessels:

Clamp the small bleeding vein and use the bovie to coagulate other bleeding veins. Tie small vein.

The major vessels are the common digital artery and veins which run with the common digital nerves. The vessels are small and frequently have spasmed down and do not bleed. Bleeding that does occur is treated either with bovie electrocautery or ligation with absorbable suture.

Nerves:

The common digital nerves in the plantar flap should be identified, drawn down, and divided so they can retract away from areas of incision, pressure, and scar. These nerves can sometimes be difficult to identify. A balance must be made between identifying the nerves and excessive dissection and trauma to the posterior flap. In blast injuries, some of these small nerves may simply no longer be present or identifiable.

Tendon division:

Pull the relatively avascular tendons down, divide them, and allow them to retract.

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