

Preoperative information

Patient details (or addressograph)

Name:

Date of Birth:

Hospital Number:

Nature of Surgery:

Clinician:

Date given to patient:

Dermatology Treatment Centre: 02921 848731 (answerphone)

Introduction

Following discussion at your clinic appointment we recommend that you have the surgical procedure above to remove a skin lesion under local anaesthetic.

The purpose of this document is to provide you with information regarding your procedure and what to expect afterwards.

After reading this document and having time to consider its content we will ask you to give your signed consent on the day of surgery or in clinic beforehand.

Surgery information and potential complications *(the percentages shown show the chance of getting the specific potential complication)*

It is common to experience **bruising and swelling (>10%)** following the procedure.

Bleeding (>10) and infection (5-10%) can complicate any surgical procedure and you should be vigilant for signs of increasing redness, swelling, pain, pus or other discharge after the operation and seek advice. There is further advice if you are taking blood thinning medication (overleaf).

A **scar** should be expected following surgery. We have discussed the various options for reconstruction and the likely scar associated with these. The method of **reconstruction** depends on the size and site of the defect after removal of the lesion. It may involve **direct closure** of the wound; moving a **local flap** of skin over the defect; a **skin graft** taken from another area of the body (creating a second scar); **delayed reconstruction** with a different team; or **prolonged dressings** with a nursing team. Occasionally **wound gaping (5-10%)** (dehiscence) can occur. In some anatomical areas of the face such as the eye, ear or lip there is a risk of deformity (i.e. changing their original shape).

Incomplete excision of the lesion (<1-5%). We will remove the visible lesion plus a further small area of healthy skin around it. There is a risk that when this is reviewed under the microscope in the lab there is evidence that microscopic deposits have been left behind. This would usually require a further procedure to remove the residual cells.

Lesions in some locations on the body can be close to **nerve branches (<1-5%)**. Removal of lesions in these areas can result in localised muscle weakness, altered sensation or pain which can be temporary or permanent.

Before the procedure

On the day of surgery, please ensure you eat and drink prior to the procedure. There is NO requirement to be starved for this surgery under local anaesthetic.

Your regular medication: Unless we have advised you differently you should continue to take your regular medications as prescribed by your doctor.

If you take **blood thinning medication**, we should be made aware of this. We usually advise that you continue to take this as normal. You are at a slightly higher risk of troublesome bruising and bleeding after the procedure. **If you are taking warfarin**, then you should arrange to have your INR checked the week before the procedure and ensure it is in the target range. Please contact us if your INR is **more than 3**.

During the procedure

The procedure is carried out under local anaesthetic. The injections to numb the area can be a little uncomfortable but we aim for the rest of the procedure to be pain-free.

You can expect the procedure to take about an hour unless it is to be carried out under microscopic control (Mohs Surgery). In this case the procedure can be done in multiple stages and may well span an entire morning or afternoon.

After the procedure

We advise that you **do not drive yourself home** after the procedure.

We advise that you **avoid** any **strenuous activity** for the week following the surgery. This increases the risk of bleeding or infection or failure of any reconstruction. **Smoking** can also impair healing and increase the risk of infection. We would advise avoiding alcohol consumption for a few days after your procedure.

You may need to be available for frequent follow-up or dressings appointments for 2-3 weeks (occasionally longer) following the surgery and **you are advised not to make travel arrangements** for this period.

Missed appointments

If you are unable to make your appointment, please contact us **(02921 848731)** with as much notice as possible. If you miss your appointment or cancel with less than **24 hours notice** you may forfeit your place on the waiting list.

On the day of surgery we will ask you to sign a consent form indicating that you have understood the information captured in this leaflet.

If you require any further information to help you decide whether to go ahead with the procedure, then please contact the department prior to attending for the procedure appointment.