

(Delete as appropriate)

Please keep your wound clean, dry and covered with a dressing until stitches are removed.

After 3 days you can get your wound wet in the shower, wash with mild soap and warm water, pat dry ensuring it is completely dry and apply Vaseline ointment and a clean dressing until your sutures are removed.

Once the local anaesthetic has worn off, the treated area may be uncomfortable.

Paracetamol or your usual analgesic (pain killer) should be sufficient to ease this.

You will be given information and instructions on the day of surgery of when and where your stitches will be removed.

Any lesion that is removed is sent to the laboratory for testing.

The doctor will send the results to you and your GP.

Another clinic appointment will be made if necessary.

You can contact your doctors secretary on the number below:

01744 646609 - Dr .....

01744 646610 - Dr .....

01744 646613 - Dr .....

01744 646614 - Dr .....

01744 646688 - Dr .....

## Biopsy of the Skin

This leaflet can be made available in alternative languages / formats on request.

如有需要, 本传单可提供其他语言/版式  
此單張的其他語言/格式版本可按要求提供

Na żądanie ta ulotka może zostać udostępniona w innych językach/formatkach.

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## Reasons for & Benefits of the Procedure

A skin biopsy is performed to establish diagnosis so that appropriate treatment can be given.

Sometimes different skin conditions can look similar to the naked eye, so additional information is required.

This is obtained by looking at the structure of the skin under a microscope. There are two situations in which this usually occurs:

- To distinguish between types of rashes. Your dermatologist may be considering a number of possible diagnoses and the skin biopsy provides additional information in this process.
- To distinguish between different skin lesions, if the dermatologist suspects a skin cancer is present.

The biopsy will also give information on the type of skin cancer which will determine the treatment.

## Medication

Please bring a list of any medication you may be taking, and tell the doctor/nurse if you take Aspirin, Warfarin or any other medication that thins your blood.

## Allergies

If you have any allergies especially to Latex, local anaesthetic or medication please tell the doctor/nurse.

## Cardiac Pacemaker

Please tell the doctor/nurse if you have a Cardiac pacemaker or any other electrical device fitted.

## Procedure

After obtaining consent the practitioner performing the procedure will inject some local anesthetic into the area surrounding the lesion to be removed. This may be uncomfortable and cause a tingling sensation which may last a few moments. This will make the skin go numb so that you should feel no pain in that area during the procedure. You may feel some pressure, pulling and pushing in the area but it should not be painful.

Before taking the skin biopsy the practitioner will test to make sure that the area is numb.

## Incisional Biopsy

A piece of skin is cut out usually the same shape as a rugby ball. Stitches are then put in to bring the two edges of the wound together.

## Punch Biopsy

A small instrument is used similar to an apple corer. This is placed over the area of skin to be biopsied and pushed down, This takes a small round core of tissue (skin). If necessary, one or two sutures will be put in to close the wound.

## Consequences of not having the procedure.

If you decide not to have this procedure we will not be able to establish a diagnosis and the lesion may increase in size.

## Risks of the Procedure

### Scarring

It is impossible to cut out the skin without scarring.

Some people have an abnormal response to skin healing and may get a larger scar than usual (Keloid or Hypertrophic scarring). If this occurs see your GP.

### Bleeding

If there is any bleeding apply firm pressure continually for 30 minutes to the wound, **do not disturb the dressing**. If bleeding continues after 30 minutes, seek medical advice or attend the NHS walk in centre or go to your own GP.

### Infection

If the wound becomes inflamed, painful or oozes this would suggest that it may have become infected. You should contact your GP or NHS walk in centre.