

Patient Information Leaflet

Advice for patients before having minor skin surgery

A minor skin procedure has been arranged for you. This leaflet will give you some information about what to expect before the procedure.

Please let our team know if you are pregnant or if you have a medical condition that you think might stop you from having the procedure. Local anaesthetic is not advised if patients are pregnant or breastfeeding unless it is an emergency. Please do inform us and your GP if this applies to you and it is best to postpone your surgery.

Inflamed or infected cysts cannot be treated at the minor surgery service. These should be treated and followed up by your GP until they are completely settled. If an abscess develops, this might need to be drained either at the GP surgery or at the hospital. Elective surgery should be postponed for at least 3 months following successful treatment, this is to avoid serious complications.

You should also let our team know prior to your appointment, if you are taking any blood thinning medication such as warfarin, clopidogrel, aspirin, rivaroxaban or apixaban or have had any allergic reactions to local anaesthetics.

- You can eat and drink as normal before and after your surgery.
- To reduce the risk of infection and give you the best possible outcome we wouldask that you take a bath or shower on the night before surgery, including washing your hair.
- Do not use deodorant spray, hair spray, hair products, body lotion or perfume.
- Do not wear make-up if you are having a procedure on the head and neck.
- If your surgery is going to be on your head and neck, we advise you not to drive after the procedure as you may feel shaky and to prevent any problems with the wound site.

About the procedure

A local anaesthetic will be used to numb the area to be operated on. This may sting a little but will soon stop.

- If you have a curettage and cautery procedure, no stitches will be needed.
- If the surgery involves stitches, most likely you will be asked to make an appointment with the practice nurse at your GP's surgery to have them removed. Your doctor or nurse will tell you when this needs to be done.
- After your procedure you will be given detailed wound care advice.
- Skin procedures often leave scars. These will be permanent but may fade over time.
- Any problems after skin surgery are usually minor, but can include bleeding, infection and scarring.

If you have any questions on the day of your surgery, please feel free to ask the nurse or doctor. If you are happy with the information provided you will be asked to sign a consent form before the procedure takes place. On occasion, we may ask you to come back on an alternative date if you require a longer appointment time for your surgery. This will be discussed with you during your initial consultation.