

Pre-op minor surgery patient information

You have been booked in to have a skin lesion removed at Sunbury Health Centre. Dr Dave Gill and Dr Mark Jopling carry out the surgery and they are assisted by our Health Care Assistant Michelle Gerard.

Planning ahead

Unfortunately there isn't space for relatives or friends to accompany you while you have the procedure. It is ideal (but not essential) if someone is available to take you home afterwards.

There is not room (and it isn't a safe environment) for children so please arrange alternative child care. If you bring children with you we will have to cancel your surgery on the day.

Please do not raise other health questions or prescriptions issues during this surgery appointment. It is important for the doctors to be able to stay focussed on the surgery and not to be put under time pressure. Make a separate appointment another time.

If your skin lesion falls off or if you decide that you don't want the surgery then please cancel before the day so the appointment can be offered to someone else.

On the day of the surgery:

We use local anaesthetic to ensure that the surgery isn't painful but please bear in mind that this is still a surgical procedure and we recommend that you consider taking the whole morning or afternoon off work that day.

If you have multiple skin lesions that need removal we will talk through how many of these can be removed in one session. It may not be possible to remove them all, in which case we will rebook you for another appointment.

To remove scalp cysts we need to cut off the hair around the cyst. Removing these cysts usually results in a little blood in your hair although we try our best to minimise this. We advise that you go home afterwards to be able to rinse this off. Because cysts are beneath your skin there will be a slightly lumpy scar immediately after removal. This will flatten with time.

Some surgical procedures won't require any stitches (also called sutures). Where needed we use either (or both) absorbable and non-absorbable sutures. We will explain to you what we are going to use on the day of the surgery. Please bear in mind that often non-absorbable sutures are needed to ensure that the wound heals with minimal scarring.

This type of surgery is usually very safe but there are some small risks which we will talk through on the day. The main risks are:

- The wound may get infected and this may require further treatment.

- Scarring following surgery should be assumed. The length of the scar is usually 3 times the size of the lesion. There is also the risk of hypertrophic scarring and keloid scarring where scarring extends beyond the cut made.
- There may be allergic reactions to the chemicals or dressings used.
- Pain may be associated with the procedure and healing process. There may be altered sensation around the scar area, which may be permanent.
- The wound can open up after the stitches have been removed.
- There may be recurrence of the lesion or incomplete removal of the lesion which may require further surgery.
- There may also be increased pigmentation of a previously removed skin lesion.

You will be asked to remove enough clothing so that the skin lesion can be properly examined and operated on.

The area of skin to be removed may be marked with removable ink.

Most minor operations need a local anaesthetic to numb the area, which will be injected just under the area to be treated. This can cause stinging.

The skin lesion/lump/tag/mole removed will be sent to histology for analysis.

If you have any questions that you want to discuss before your procedure then please make a telephone appointment with either Dr Gill or Dr Jopling

Thanks

The Minor Surgery Team