Gloucestershire Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Wound care advice following the removal of a skin lesion

Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery

Introduction

This leaflet gives you information about how to care for the wound site after the removal of a skin lesion.

Following this advice should allow healing to complete quickly.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please get in contact with us. The contact details can be found at the end of this leaflet.

Local anaesthetic

If you have had an injection to make the area numb (local anaesthetic), it may take up to 4 hours for normal sensation to return.

If your mouth or lip has been numbed, avoid any hot or very cold food until the feeling has returned to normal.

Bleeding

Some minor bleeding may occur after the surgery. If this happens, apply pressure continually for 30 minutes, using a clean tissue or a piece of gauze. If there is a dressing in place, do not remove it, but apply pressure over the dressing. This should control the bleeding.

If the bleeding continues and you are concerned, contact the Oral and Maxillofacial Department using the contact details found later in this leaflet.

Pain control

The effects of the local anaesthetic will begin to wear off 1 to 2 hours after the surgery. The area may be uncomfortable or even painful.

We recommend that you use pain relief such as paracetamol or ibuprofen. Please follow the manufacturer's instructions, and do not exceed the recommended daily dose. Always read the label especially if you take other medicines or if you have been given prescription pain relief.

Avoid taking aspirin, unless you are taking it for another medical reason.

Wound care

- Keep the wound dry for the first few days after surgery
- Be careful when drying the wound; try to dry by dabbing rather than rubbing
- Avoid over stretching the area for at least 2 weeks
- You will be advised when your dressing can be removed. Some dressings may be stitched onto the wound, if so, we will remove them at your next appointment. This will need to be carried out by our clinic nurses in our outpatient department and **not** at your GP surgery. If you have been bleeding and are concerned about this dressing, please call us.
- If you are prescribed an antibacterial ointment called Chloramphenicol ointment this should be applied to the wound twice a day for 5 days (this ointment may be labelled as 'eye ointment' but it is

to be applied to the wound as directed and not to the eye)

Infection

If the wound becomes hot, swollen, very painful or oozing pus with a smell or odour, this may be a sign of infection. Seek advice by contacting the Oral and Maxillofacial Department or your GP if you are concerned.

Post-operative appointments

On the day of your surgery, you will be told if a follow up appointment will be needed.

Removal of stitches (sutures)

- Stitches have to be left in for different periods of time, depending on various factors. Normally this is between 7 to 14 days. As a result, if you need to change this appointment, please ensure your new appointment is in a similar timeframe
- Stitch removal will be done either at your GP's surgery or in our out-patient department. **We will inform you which on the day of your surgery.**
- Sometimes dissolvable stitches are used. These begin to dissolve after about 5 days but can take up to several weeks to disappear completely.
- If the stitches come out before they are due to be removed or if the wound opens up, please contact the Oral and Maxillofacial Department.

Results

- During the surgery a tissue sample will be taken and sent to the Pathology Department for assessment. It normally takes 6 to 8 weeks for the results to be received.
- The results will be discussed at this time with your surgeon.

Contact information

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery department or your GP.

Outpatient department
New and follow-up clinic booking enquiries
Tel: 0300 422 6940
Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 4:30pm

Minor surgery (local anaesthetic with/without sedation) booking enquiries
Tel: 0300 422 3197
Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 4:30pm

Inpatient and Day Surgery Unit booking enquiries
Tel: 0300 422 8192
Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 4:30pm

Post-operative concerns (8am to 8pm)

If you have any concerns regarding your wound call the number below. This will take you through to switchboard. Please ask for the ‘on call Dr for Maxillo-Facial’ (Max Fax)

Tel: 0300 422 2222

If you have an emergency such as uncontrolled bleeding outside these hours, then please attend the Emergency Department at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital.

Further information

For more information, please visit the Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery webpage: www.gloshospitals.nhs.uk/our-services/services-we-offer/oral-maxillofacial-surgery/

Information about your surgery

Content reviewed: September 2026

Shared Decision Making

If you are asked to make a choice, you may have lots of questions that you want to ask. You may also want to talk over your options with your family or friends. It can help to write a list of the questions you want answered and take it to your appointment.

Ask 3 Questions

To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions if you asked to make a choice about your healthcare.



1. What are my options?
2. What are the pros and cons of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?

These resources have been adapted with kind permission from the MAGIC Programme, supported by the Health Foundation.

***Ask 3 Questions** is based on Shepherd HL, et al. Three questions that patients can ask to improve the quality of information physicians give about treatment options: A cross-over trial.

Patient Education and Counselling, 2011;84: 379-85

AQuA
Advancing Quality Alliance

Right Care
Shared
Decision Making
Programme

NHS **https://aqua.nhs.uk/resources/shared-decision-making-case-studies/**

Cheltenham Gloucester
HOSPITALS CHARITY

Registered Charity 1051606

Every donation you choose to give helps your local hospitals do more to care for you, everyone you love and our passionate NHS staff.
If you would like to find out more, please contact:
Charity Office **0300 422 3231** or visit **gloshospitals.nhs.uk/charity**

GHPI1760_09_26
Department: Oral & Maxillofacial
Review due: September 2029
www.gloshospitals.nhs.uk