

Advice for patients before having minor skin surgery

Introduction

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

Please let the staff know if:

- You are taking any blood thinning medication (such as warfarin, clopidogrel, aspirin, rivaroxaban or apixaban). It is not normally necessary to stop these medications before a procedure, but your dermatologist will advise you if this is required for specific circumstances.
- You have had any allergic reactions to local anaesthetics.
- You suffer from needle phobia.
- You are pregnant.
- You have a pacemaker or implantable device.

About the procedure

A local anaesthetic will be used to numb the area to be operated on. This will sting briefly while it is injected into the skin.

- If you are having a curettage (scrape) and cautery procedure, no stitches will be needed.
- If the surgery involves stitches, you will be asked to make an appointment with the practice nurse at your GP's surgery to have them removed.
- After your procedure you will be given detailed wound care advice.
- Skin procedures leave scars; these will be permanent but may fade over time.
- Problems after skin surgery can include bleeding, infection and scarring which will be discussed with you when you consent to the surgery and before leaving the department.
- If your skin surgery involves your head or neck, we may advise you not to drive after the procedure.

Reference No.

GHPI1422_05_21

Department

Dermatology

Review due

May 2024

**Patient
Information**

- You can eat and drink as normal before and after your surgery.

If you have any questions please ask the nurse or doctor.

If you are happy with the information you have been given you will be asked to sign a consent form before the procedure takes place.

Contact information

Dermatology Outpatients Department
Gloucestershire Royal Hospital
Tel: 0300 422 8193
Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 4.30pm

Content reviewed: May 2021