

**Patient
Information**

Dermatology Day Surgery

Introduction

This leaflet will give you information about having dermatology surgery and what to expect afterwards.

Why am I having surgery?

You are having surgery to remove the skin cancer on your head or neck. The wound will be closed by bringing the sides together, or using nearby skin to cover the area (skin flap) or skin from a different area of your body called a skin graft.

Are there any risks?

- Any surgery can leave bruising or swelling
- The wound may get infected or fail to heal
- The lump may not be completely removed
- The healing process can take longer if you smoke as it lowers the oxygen levels in your blood.

Will I be left with a scar?

You may have a scar after surgery, but this can fade in time if you take wound care advice. Ask your doctor or nurse for information.

Will I need to let you know I can attend the appointment?

Yes, it is important that you let us know as soon as possible that you are able to attend the appointment.

You can contact the Dermatology Department on the telephone number at the end of this leaflet.

Can I have my surgery at Cheltenham General Hospital?

No, this type of surgery is always carried out at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital.

Reference No.

GHP11065_04_20

Department

Dermatology

Review due

April 2021

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Can I drive after surgery?

You should not drive for at least 48 hours after the surgery. You will need to arrange for someone else to drive you home or use another form of transport. Drivers need to check their insurance policy before returning to drive.

How long will the procedure take?

Surgery will take about 1 hour and you can go home afterwards. It is important that you keep the day after surgery free, as you may need to return for the dressing to be removed.

Can I eat or drink before surgery?

You can eat and drink as normal before surgery.

Do I stop taking blood thinning medication before surgery?

Aspirin

If you are prescribed aspirin, please carry on taking this unless you are told otherwise.

Clopidogrel

If you take clopidogrel please ask your GP if it is safe to stop this medication for a short time. We would need you to stop for 7 days before your surgery. If you are not advised to stop taking it by your GP, it is fine to continue if your GP feels it is best.

Warfarin

If you are prescribed warfarin, please make sure that you have your INR (International Normalised Ratio) checked 3 days before your surgery. If your INR is below 3.0, then it is safe to continue warfarin for the surgery. If your INR is above 3.0 please discuss with your surgeon to check if it is safe to proceed with the surgery. Please contact the Dermatology Department with the result of your INR on Tel: 0300 422 5396.

Rivaroxaban/Apixaban

Please check with your GP if it is safe to stop this for a short time. We would need you to stop for 1 day before your surgery. If you are not advised to stop it, it is fine to continue if your GP feels it is best.

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If you are prescribed low molecular weight heparin please confirm with your GP/clinician in charge.

Arriving for surgery

If you are travelling to Gloucestershire Royal Hospital by car, we suggest that you allow enough time for parking and arrive at least 10 minutes before your appointment time.

Please go to the Dermatology reception where your details will be checked and you will be shown to the waiting area.

Will I be given anaesthetic?

Yes, but you will stay awake as it is local not general anaesthetic. The local anaesthetic is injected into the skin around the lump. You will feel a stinging sensation lasting for a few seconds.

How long will it take for the anaesthetic to wear off?

The anaesthetic will take about 2 hours to wear off. If you have any pain or discomfort you may take pain relief such as paracetamol. Please follow the instructions on the pack.

Can I eat and drink after surgery?

Yes, you can eat and drink after surgery, although you may be asked to avoid eating foods that require a lot of chewing.

Wound care

You will have a dressing covering your wound after surgery and may have a pressure dressing on for one day. It is important to keep the wound and dressing dry until the stitches have been taken out.

If the wound bleeds, press firmly on it with a pad of clean tissue for 5 to 10 minutes, using the flat of your hand while sitting upright. Sleeping with raised pillows or in a sitting position for 1 to 2 days post-surgery will reduce the bruising around face. Try to avoid bending, lifting or carrying heavy objects until a few days after the stitches have been removed.

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When will the stitches be taken out?

An appointment will be given to you for having your stitches taken out in Dermatology Outpatients about 1 week after surgery.

Will I be prescribed any medication?

You may be given antibiotics after surgery to reduce the risk of infection.

If your wound becomes sore, inflamed or begins to ooze, you may need to take antibiotics.

If you are worried please contact Dermatology Outpatients for advice (the number is at the end of this leaflet). At weekends or bank holidays please contact NHS 111 for advice.

Can I travel after my surgery?

You are advised not to travel abroad or for long distances after your surgery, so if you have any infection or bleeding, it can be dealt with quickly.

When can I return to work?

Returning to work after surgery depends on the type of treatment you have had and what your work involves. We can discuss this at the time of surgery.

Will I have a follow-up appointment?

A follow-up appointment may be arranged, but this depends on your type of surgery and how your wound heals.

Keeping our records up to date

If you change your address, telephone number or GP please contact Dermatology Day Surgery to update your record.

**Patient
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If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Dermatology Day Surgery during office hours. If you are concerned and the clinic is closed, please contact NHS 111.

Dermatology Day Surgery

Gloucestershire Royal Hospital

Tel: 0300 422 8193

Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4.30pm

An answer machine is available if we are unable to answer your call. Please leave your name and contact number and we will return your call the next working day.

Dermatology Department

Gloucestershire Royal Hospital

Tel: 0300 422 5396

Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm

Dermatology Outpatient Department

Gloucestershire Royal Hospital

Tel: 0300 422 8454

Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm

NHS 111

Tel: 111

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