

Advice for patients having minor skin surgery

Introduction

A minor skin procedure has been arranged for you. This leaflet gives you 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.
- 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, stitches will not be needed.
- If the procedure 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 procedure 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_02_24

Department

Dermatology

Review due

February 2027

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: February 2024

Making a choice

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 are 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