

Dermatology Unit (Rugby St Cross)

Information for patients having a dermatology surgical procedure

The procedure will be done under **local anaesthesia**. You may eat and drink as normal. You will be allowed home the same morning or afternoon.

Please:

- Bring someone with you to drive you home
- Avoid alcohol for twenty-four hours before and after your procedure

If you are taking Warfarin, We recommend that you contact the Dermatology Department for advice on telephone number 01788 663249 and have an INR test 1- 2 days beforehand.

The doctor or nurse performing the surgery will explain the procedures and any particular risks associated with it. General risks/complications/side-effects associated with any type of surgical procedure are listed below:

- **Pain:** Take paracetamol as required and **not** aspirin
- **Bleeding:** raise and press the area firmly for 5-10 minutes
- **Infection:** If the area becomes increasingly painful, red and hot, please contact the department or your GP
- **Scar:** scars occur with all types of surgery. The shape of the scar depends on the type of procedure performed. They can be:
 - In a line where the skin was cut and stitched
 - In a circle where a lesion has been scraped off the skin (curettage and cautery)
 - Like a chicken pox scar (after a punch biopsy where no stitch is required)

Sometimes the scar can stretch or become depressed. Occasionally scars can become lumpy (keloid scar) in individuals who are prone to this or when surgery is done on the chest/shoulders.

Altered sensation/feeling in the scar and surrounding skin. This usually improves over the following weeks and months.

Recurrence the skin cancer/spot can sometimes re-appear within the scar, after weeks or months of the apparent complete surgical removal.

After your operation, you will be given further instructions and in most cases a follow up appointment.



Patient Information

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to ask or phone the dermatology department and speak to the nursing staff.

Dermatology Department

Monday to Friday 8.00am-5.30pm

Telephone number: 01788 663249

Minor operation appointments: ring Hayley Johnson on 01788 663208

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please contact 01788 663249 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy

Document History

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