



PLASTIC &
RECONSTRUCTIVE
SURGEON

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INFORMATION LEAFLET EXCISION OF A LESION/SKIN CANCER

GENERAL:

- The specimen will be sent to a pathologist for histological evaluation to determine the final diagnosis and determine the completeness of excision.
- A scar that will be longer than the original lesion will be present if the lesion is excised in an elliptical fashion (ratio of 3:1).
- If a flap or a skin graft is needed, there will be additional donor site scars. The skin graft donor site is normally in the groin or on the thigh.
- Wound care of the skin graft will need additional wound care by the wound care sister. Please make an appointment with Sr. Liz Wilson: 083 259 0257, 012 997 4399.

PRE-OPERATIVE CARE:

- Fasting for 6 hours before the procedure is mandatory.
- Before skin grafts: Wash the axilla, groin & perineum with Hibiscrub/Bioscrub soap (Will be supplied by practice) the evening and morning before the procedure.
- Do not shave the hair in the region of the operative site – this will be done in theatre.
- Do not take any herbs or supplements for 2 weeks before the surgery. STOP Disprin/Ecotrin 10 days before surgery. STOP Clopidogrel/Plavix 7 days before the surgery.
- Do not smoke cigarettes for 6 weeks before and 6 weeks after the procedure. Cigarette Smoking increases the RISK FOR COMPLICATIONS significantly.

POST-OPERATIVE CARE:

- Mild Bleeding from the suture lines is normal.
- If bleeding is excessive, kindly contact the rooms for an appointment. If moderate bleeding, use light compression with gauze.
- Swelling around the eyes is a normal occurrence, if the lesion was in close proximity to the eyes.
- Do not compress or put pressure on the flap tissue.
- Do not remove the dressing, unless it is completely soaked with blood. It may itch a little, this is normal. Only then may the suture line be cleaned with sterile water and a clean bandage applied.

- Do not use chemical disinfectants to clean the wound.
- Normal day-to-day activities may be resumed after 2 weeks of rest.
- Please make an appointment as requested on a specific date.
- Normal washing may resume over the suture line once the sutures have been removed.
- Do not apply tissue oil or Bio-oil on the scars, before the raw areas have healed completely (this may cause irritation and redness in the scars). Scar management will be explained with follow-up.
- The wound healing process takes 12 – 18 months, final scarring may only be judged after this time period.