

Stretching of Wounds

During the first few weeks if your wound opens up or your stitches break or loosen you should contact us for advice.

Scars

Scars are inevitable following surgery, but in some areas, particularly the upper arms, back and chest, unsightly thickened scars are more likely to occur.

Numbness or tingling

Minor skin nerves are sometimes damaged during surgery, leading to altered sensations or numbness. Usually the sensation gradually returns to normal.

If you need to contact us:

During working hours (9 - 5pm)

phone Dermatology Outpatients at:

Queen Elizabeth University Hospital:

☎ 0141 452 3238

New Victoria Hospital:

☎ 0141 347 8262

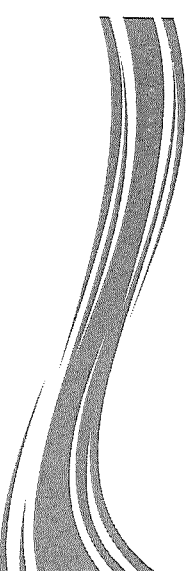
If you have any issues after your surgery that cannot wait until the next working day, please contact NHS 24 by telephone on ☎ 111.

Acute Services Division



Information for patients attending for

Dermatology Skin Surgery



Department of Dermatology

New Victoria Hospital

Grange Road, Glasgow G42 9LF

☎ 0141 347 8475

Queen Elizabeth University Hospital

1345 Govan Road, Glasgow G51 4TF

☎ 0141 452 3238

Place: _____
Clinician: \ _____
Date: _____
Time: _____

About Skin Surgery

We have given you an appointment to attend the Dermatology Department for a skin surgical procedure or 'biopsy'.

What is meant by skin surgery?

Skin surgery is performed to remove a skin lesion, or to help to make a diagnosis. We use a local anaesthetic which numbs the skin and does not cause drowsiness. The whole procedure can be from 15 minutes to an hour depending on the complexity.

Please attend in good time.

The clinician will try to see you on time but this is not always possible.

About the procedure

The clinician will explain exactly what they are going to do and ask you to sign or confirm your consent form. The local anaesthetic injection is slightly uncomfortable but eases quickly. Most people will need stitches. At the time of surgery we will also tell you about where and when any stitches can be removed; your GP's nurse may do this for you. Please note this is a Teaching Hospital.

Qualified doctors at different stages in their training may carry out your procedure. Specialist Nurses also perform surgery. They will have Consultant supervision where required.

Results

We will send the removed tissue to the pathology department for further examination. We may give you your results by letter or at another clinic appointment. We will also tell your GP. Sometimes the result can take up to 6 weeks.

What we need to know

In order to prevent problems or delay, you must tell the doctor as soon as possible if:

- You have ever had a severe reaction to local anaesthetic or any other medications.
- You have a heart pacemaker and ideally what type or any other electrical implant.
- You have a heart valve problem.
- You have any bleeding tendency such as haemophilia.
- You take warfarin or other drugs to thin the blood including aspirin.
- For scalp or facial surgery please avoid using hairspray or flammable hair products on the day of surgery.

Can I drive afterwards?

Usually the surgery will not directly affect your driving, unless dressings need to be applied near the eye or the lesion biopsied is on the hands or feet. You may wish to bring someone with you if you feel anxious about the procedure, but they would not routinely be in the surgical operating room.

After Skin Surgery

You should avoid alcohol for 24 hours after surgery.

Pain

Severe pain is unusual following skin surgery and simple painkillers such as paracetamol are best. Avoid aspirin as a painkiller unless prescribed as this may increase risk of bleeding.

Bleeding

If you find that the wound starts to bleed again some hours after surgery you can apply sustained pressure with a tissue, clean cloth or handkerchief for at least 20 minutes. You should seek medical advice thereafter should it continue to bleed.

Infection

If the wound becomes increasingly red, inflamed, tender or discharges it may be infected. It is important to contact us or your doctor in case you need an antibiotic.