

PATIENT INFORMATION

Wound Care after Facial Skin Surgery

When you signed your consent form you will have heard that.

Pain: The area is numbed; it works very quickly and will last well beyond the length of your operation, usually about two hours. It is a good idea to take some pain killing medicines such as Paracetamol before the effect of the local anaesthetic wears off and to take it regularly for two to three days.

Bleeding: There will be some bleeding during and sometimes after the procedure. We will explain to you how you can look after the wound and control any oozing or bleeding during the healing period. Avoid strenuous exercise for a few days following the procedure and avoid bending down because this can cause some bleeding.

Swelling: There is likely to be some swelling and bruising in the tissues around the wound which gets worse for about two days and subsides slowly for a week or so.

Infection: There is a small risk of infection with all surgical procedures. We minimise this risk by using antiseptic cleansers and careful technique.

Scar: There will be a scar after the area has healed. The size of the scar will depend on your procedure and the site of the lesion. The scar will be obvious initially and fades for a year.

Stitches: You usually need to arrange for your GP Practice Nurse to remove the stitches. **Please ensure that you are not away on holiday for up to two weeks following your procedure.** Sometimes we use dissolving sutures instead which do not need to be removed.

Wound: We recommend that you avoid soaking wounds in a bath/shower or going swimming for at least 48 hours.

Numbness: It is common for the skin around the wound to be numb for a few weeks afterwards and may be longer.

Results: Usually it is not possible to guarantee that a lesion has been completely removed until we receive the pathology report following examination of the sample under the microscope usually around two weeks after the surgery.

Urgent: In case of an emergency, please contact the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Secretaries on: (01803) 656243, 656237 or 656241. The Secretary is only available Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. If out of these hours, please contact NHS 111 for advice or attend the Accident and Emergency Department in an emergency only.

For further assistance or to receive this information in a different format, please contact the department which created this leaflet.