

Advice following a shave or curettage procedure

Department of Dermatology, Lauriston Building

Information for Patients

A doctor or nurse has performed a procedure on you which involved removing the top layers of your skin. You will have a wound like a graze and there are no stitches. This leaflet is written to provide advice as to how to look after the wound.

Local anaesthetic and pain relief

The effects of the local anaesthetic you were given will wear off in 1 to 2 hours. Unless the procedure was very simple, we advise you to take Paracetamol tablets for pain relief as soon as possible and follow the dosage instructions on the packet.

How to care for your wound

If a dressing has been applied, keep it on for 48 hours. After 48 hours remove the dressing. Once the dressing is removed, the area can be washed very gently once daily. After washing, pat it dry but do not rub it, apply a soft paraffin ointment two to three times daily to the wound. It may take 2-3 weeks to heal completely. If the procedure was on the face or neck, do not use make-up on the area until it is completely healed. Do not scratch the area as this may introduce infection.

What to avoid

Avoid swimming, water sports and wet work such as washing-up until the area has healed completely.

What to do if you experience problems with the wound

If the wound bleeds, press firmly with a clean tissue or swab for a full 10 minutes. This should stop the bleeding. If not, please telephone the department on the number below (Monday to Friday 9 am to 5 pm). If you have a problem outwith these times either contact your own GP, NHS 24 or go to a hospital Emergency department (A&E).

If the wound is becoming increasingly inflamed, painful or discharging pus then please telephone the number below (Monday to Friday 9 am to 5 pm).

If you are unable to attend the Dermatology department please make arrangements to see your own GP. If you do make arrangements to see your own GP please also let Dermatology know on the number above.

Your biopsy results

The results of your biopsy will be sent to your GP in 6 to 8 weeks time.

Please do not telephone the Department for your results. If further treatment is required, the Dermatology Department will contact you.

Interpretation and Translation

This leaflet may be made available in a larger print, Braille or your community language.

Contact Telephone Number

Direct Dial: 0131 536 2068