



Department of Dermatology
XYZ Hospital

Skin Clinic

Information for patients who have had a skin biopsy (skin sample), or a small operation

When will I know the results of the skin test (biopsy)?

- We will contact your GP with the results in about **four weeks**.
- You will be told **sooner** if the results show something important.
- We will talk about your results next time you come to the skin clinic.

Will I have a scar?

- Yes, but it should fade after a while.
- People have different kinds of skin so the final result can vary.
- **Please tell your skin doctor if you tend to scar badly.**

When will my skin feel normal again?

- After the injection, your skin will feel numb for 2 hours or more.
- However, it will soon return to normal.

Why must I be careful if I had surgery around my mouth?

- Because when you can't feel anything, you can **burn** yourself.
- **Do not eat or drink anything hot** until your mouth feels normal again.
- Move your mouth as little as possible for a couple of days.
- Don't **talk** a lot, and eat **soft food**, to allow your mouth time to heal.

What unwanted effects can happen after the surgery?

Pain

- Adults - take 1 or 2 tablets of 500mg **Paracetamol** every 4 – 6 hours, to a maximum of 8 tablets in 24 hours.
- Don't take **extra** Paracetamol if your usual medicine already contains Paracetamol. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

Bleeding

- This does not happen often.
- **Press the wound over the dressing** with a wad of clean tissues. Time this carefully for **5 –10 minutes**. The bleeding should stop.
- If the bleeding does not stop, go to your nearest Casualty Department or Minor Injuries Unit.

Infection

This does not happen often. Contact your family doctor or nurse straight away if your wound is:

- sore, hot, smelly; or
- has gloopy fluid oozing under the dressing.

How do I care for my wound?

- Keep the dressing (covering) **on until the nurse removes your stitches**.
- Keep your wound as **dry** as possible. It is OK to have a quick shower.
- **Do not bath or swim** otherwise the dressing will get soaked or fall off.

What do I do if the dressing comes off too soon?

- Keep the wound **clean** and **dry**. Cover it with Elastoplast or another dressing if you have sensitive skin.
- If your wound is on your **face or neck**, these areas heal quickly. You do not need to put another dressing on.

What happens next?

Your skin doctor will tick all that applies to you.

Today, please ask the receptionist to make you a skin clinic appointment for weeks' time.

You have **dissolvable stitches**. They will fall out by themselves in about **two weeks**. Do not worry if they stay in for longer.

You have ordinary stitches that do not dissolve.

Please arrange for your practice nurse to take your stitches out days after your operation on (date).

If you have a bandage on your leg

Please remove the bandage in days after your operation on

Your nurse will remove the **dressing** when he/she removes your **stitches**.