

Please make the clinician aware if you have a particularly active lifestyle so that they can discuss how the surgical procedure will affect you.

AFTER YOUR SURGICAL PROCEDURE

The area may have stitches and a dressing over the surgery site. Some stitches will need to be removed; others are absorbable and will dissolve away in time.

If you have stitches that require removal, the nurse will advise you when and where this should be carried out.

The area may be sore after your operation. Normally paracetamol should be sufficient to control pain.

The clinician will inform you of the results which may take several weeks. If it is necessary to see you again, an appointment will be sent.

If you have any concerns about your surgical procedure or care of your wound, your Practice Nurse at your GP surgery may be able to advise you.

If for any reason you are unable to attend your appointment, please cancel giving as much notice as possible.

Kent Integrated Dermatology Service

51 Chesswood Road
Worthing
BN11 2AA

Patient Helpline: 01732 651041 (*Mon – Fri, 9am – 5pm*)

Email: Westkent.Dermatology@nhs.net /
Northkent.Dermatology@nhs.net



Kent Integrated Dermatology Service

SKIN SURGERY PATIENT INFORMATION

All surgery carried out by West Kent Dermatology is deemed necessary by the clinician responsible for your care. If you feel that you need further information on the nature of your condition and the proposed treatment then please contact our administration office on 01732 651041 (Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm).

It may be advisable that someone accompanies you and can drive you home following your operation. There are several reasons for this, but most importantly dressings and the location of the wound may inhibit your vision and ability to drive.

Relatives/friends will have the opportunity to ask questions or voice concerns before your operation begins. However, they will be asked to remain seated in the waiting room while the procedure is carried out.

If you require transport, you will need to arrange this yourself and let us know so that we can ensure your appointment is suitable for transport. Please ensure you have booked a return journey.

Please be aware you can eat and drink as normal before your surgical procedure.

Please inform the clinician and/or nurse if you have any allergies or have had a previous adverse reaction to Local Anaesthetic, Iodine, Latex or dressings.

You will be awake during the procedure, which can take up to one hour. An injection of local anaesthetic is given close to the site of the procedure. This will sting initially but you should feel no discomfort during the operation after the area is numbed.

Most of the skin lesions removed are excised (i.e., cut out and stitched) and it is likely that you will be left with a scar. Sometimes in order to remove an area adequately and to try and ensure the best cosmetic end result, more complex skin surgery involving flaps or grafts may be necessary.

Please inform the clinician **prior** to the surgical procedure if:

1. You have a pacemaker or intra-cardiac defibrillator fitted.
2. You are taking blood thinning agents or anticoagulants. Please bring a full list of your medication – obtainable from your GP surgery.
3. You are taking Warfarin to thin the blood. NB: You will need to have a blood test and let us know the results **a few days prior** to your surgery. Please bring your yellow book with you. If your INR results are too high, it is possible that your operation will be postponed.

You will be advised about this on the day of the surgery. Should this be the case please be aware that you may need to return to the department for several visits for review of your wound.

The healing capacity of the skin varies from person to person and is affected by the body site being treated. If your skin lesion is in one of these difficult areas such as the skin over the breastbone or lower leg, this will be explained. Fortunately the face generally heals well.

Occasionally following surgery some numbness or tingling sensations may occur due to damage to small nerves. The problem is usually temporary and will recover with time, but rarely may be permanent.