

Removal of a Facial Skin Lesion

Head & Neck

Introduction

The aim of this booklet:

- To provide information about why you are having this procedure
- To explain what the surgery involves
- To provide you with information on the risks, benefits and possible alternatives of this procedure, before you sign the consent form

Your doctor has assessed that you require the **removal of a lesion from your face**.

This leaflet has been written to explain to you what is involved in having this done and to help you understand more about the procedure.

Why do I need the removal of the facial skin lesion?

A skin lesion on your face has been identified by your doctor, and discussed with you, advising that surgical removal of part or the whole lesion is currently the most appropriate management. This also allows us to make a diagnosis of the facial skin lesion.

Consent

We must seek your consent for any procedure or treatment beforehand. Your doctor will explain the risks, benefits and alternatives where relevant before they ask for your consent. If you are unsure about any aspect of the procedure or treatment proposed please do not hesitate to ask for more information.

What are the benefits of having this procedure?

It will help to make a diagnosis of your facial lesion.

What are the risks of the procedure?

Pain and swelling – Once the local anaesthetic wears off, it may feel a little sore and swollen for the first few days after the operation. Simple painkillers are usually advised to help control the pain and discomfort.

The prevention of infection is a major priority in all healthcare and everyone has a part to play.

- Please decontaminate your hands frequently for 20 seconds using soap and water or alcohol gel if available
- If you have symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, cough or other respiratory symptoms, a temperature or any loss of taste or smell please do not visit the hospital or any other care facility and seek advice from 111
- Keep the environment clean and tidy
- Let's work together to keep infections out of our hospitals and care homes.

Bruising and bleeding – Bleeding is normally controlled by the stitches. If the site bleeds when you get home, apply pressure over the area for at least ten minutes to stop the bleeding. If significant bleeding continues, please contact the department.

Infection – During the healing process, there is a risk of infection. You will need to ensure that the area is kept clean after the procedure. If required, the surgeon may prescribe topical or oral antibiotics.

Scar – There will be a scar where the lesion was removed, and from where a graft was removed, if needed. The scars are usually placed in creases to make them less noticeable.

Nerve injury – The face has many important structures including nerves. These can provide sensation (sensory) or allow muscle movement (motor). During surgery these nerves can be stretched or cut in severe cases, leaving you with altered sensation or a decrease in the movement of muscles involved in facial expression.

What will my treatment involve?

Normally, the removal of a facial skin lesion is done under local anaesthetic, for example, an injection will be used to numb the lesion and the area around it. The area will be cleaned and the area to be removed will be marked with special ink. The lesion will be cut out and removed by the surgeon. The hole in the skin, created by removal of the lesion, is closed depending on the size and site of the lesion;

- If the hole is small, the skin is pulled together and stitched to close the hole
- If the surgeon is unable to close the hole this way, neighbouring skin can be moved round to fill the hole and stitched in place
- If the hole is large, then a piece of skin may have to be donated (graft) from another area on your body where an excess of skin is available, such as behind the ear, neck or just above the collarbone. After being stitched in place, the graft is covered with a dressing for about 10 days

The type of wound closure will be discussed with you before the procedure. A combination of dissolvable and non-dissolvable stitches may be used to close the hole. The dissolvable stitches do not need to be removed, but the non-dissolvable stitches will need to be removed in about 5-7 days.

How will I get the results?

The lesion (piece of skin), which has been removed will be sent to the Pathology Department to be assessed. Depending on the result of these tests, you may or may not need a further appointment. The results will be sent by letter in the post to you and your GP, or discussed at your next appointment.

If you have not received your results within 8-10 weeks following your procedure, please contact the secretaries on the numbers below:

Mr Rehman Secretary: 01902 695962

Miss Mahon Secretary: 01902 695405

Monday to Thursday from 8.00am – 5.30pm

Friday from 8.00am – 4.30pm

Following your Procedure:

To reduce the risk of infection:

- Do not disturb your wound
- Do not touch your wound

If you have been instructed to apply cream or change your dressing, please always remember to wash your hands before and after touching the wound.

When can I return to work?

This depends on the size and location of the skin lesion removed. If the procedure was done under local anaesthetic alone, then you can normally go back to work the next day. It also depends on whether a graft has been required. You will need to discuss this with your doctor after the procedure.

Will I need a further appointment?

Appointments may need to be made to remove or change any dressings and stitches.

Another appointment will be given to you to discuss the results of the examination of the lesion once they have been done, and to assess the healing of the wound.

If you have any personal access needs or require wheelchair access, please contact a member of staff on the numbers provided.

Where can I get further information?

If you have any questions or concerns about your treatment, please speak to your surgeon or ring the following:

Head and Neck OPD A25

Monday to Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm

01902 307999 ext 85420

Ward B7

Monday – Sunday 24 hours a day

01902 695043 or 694043 for advice

Head and Neck Same Day Emergency (HNSDEC)

Monday to Sunday 8.00am - 7.00pm

01902 307999 ext 82462 for advice

Further information is also available from:

British Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

www.baoms.org.uk

English

If you need information in another way like easy read or a different language please let us know.

If you need an interpreter or assistance please let us know.

Lithuanian

Jeigu norėtumėte, kad informacija jums būtų pateikta kitu būdu, pavyzdžiui, supaprastinta forma ar kita kalba, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Jeigu jums reikia vertėjo ar kitos pagalbos, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Polish

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać te informacje w innej postaci, na przykład w wersji łatwej do czytania lub w innym języku, prosimy powiedzieć nam o tym.

Prosimy poinformować nas również, jeżeli potrzebowaliby Państwo usługi tłumaczenia ustnego lub innej pomocy.

Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵਿਚ ਆਸਾਨ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਜੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ, ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀ ਜਾਂ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

Romanian

Dacă aveți nevoie de informații în alt format, ca de exemplu caractere ușor de citit sau altă limbă, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Dacă aveți nevoie de un interpret sau de asistență, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Traditional Chinese

如果您需要以其他方式了解信息，如易读或其他语种，请告诉我们。

如果您需要口译人员或帮助，请告诉我们。