

Pre-operative Information for Dermatology Patients Referred to General Surgery for Procedures Undertaken at the Treatment Centre

Following your consultation in the Dermatology Department today, you have been referred to a general surgeon for removal of your skin lesion. If you wish to speak to the surgeon before your procedure, this can be arranged.

Before your procedure:

- You may eat and drink normally. It is important to eat before the procedure to lessen the risk of fainting during or after the surgery. If you have diabetes, ensure you have had sufficient food
- If you are taking blood thinning medication, for example, aspirin, warfarin, clopidogrel, apixaban, dabigatran, rivaroxaban, we will contact you to discuss how to safely manage your medication before your procedure
- If you have a pacemaker or electrical cardiac device, your device may need to be checked before and after the procedure. You will be contacted if this is the case
- We will see all patients at the beginning of the surgical list, where the surgeon will discuss your procedure, explain the risks and ask you to sign a consent form
- You should plan to be at the Treatment Centre for at least half a day on the day of the procedure
- The appointment we send to you for the Treatment Centre will be the appointment for your procedure

Risks of skin surgery:

- **Scarring** – all surgical procedures leave a scar. Scars on the upper body and upper arms may become raised and itchy
- **Swelling** – can be a risk of skin surgery. Treatment is elevation of the affected limb
- **Bleeding** – the wound may ooze/bleed after the procedure. Simple pressure should be adequate to stop this
- **Infection** – wounds may become infected after the procedure. If the wound becomes red, sore and weepy, you may need antibiotics
- **Nerve damage** – nerves may be cut during the procedure which may leave the area with numbness and tingling. In most patients this is likely to resolve, but it may be permanent

During the procedure:

- The procedure is generally carried out under a local anaesthetic
- You will be awake during the procedure
- We will mark the area of the skin to be operated on
- If you have had a skin graft, you will have dressings on the area where the skin graft has been taken as well as the area where the skin graft has been applied

After the procedure:

- You will need to arrange for someone to take you home
- Avoid vigorous or strenuous exercise until your wound has healed and your stitches have been removed
- Avoid getting the surgical wound wet as this can delay healing
- Wearing support stockings or a bandage for two to four weeks after your procedure can help wound healing
- If you have had surgery and/or skin graft on your leg, you should elevate your leg as much as possible. This helps to reduce swelling and improve healing
- If you have had a skin graft on your foot or your ankle or near a joint, you may have a plaster splint to immobilise the grafted area and you may need to use crutches to walk. The crutches will be loaned to you and must be returned to the Treatment Centre when no longer required
- You can use moisturising creams over the grafted and donor area once the dressings have been removed and the area is healed
- Please do not remove your dressing, as your surgeon will see you in clinic one to two weeks after your procedure for your first dressing change
- There will usually be stitches which will need to be removed at your GP surgery – the surgeon will confirm the length of time before the stitches will need removing. Please organise the appointment with the Practice Nurse at your GP surgery and not with your GP

If you have any questions or queries, please contact the Dermatology Department on 01270 612384.

This information is available in audio, Braille, large print and other languages. To request a copy, please telephone 01270 612384.