

## Infection

Sometimes the wound area can become infected. This gives rise to pain, swelling and redness. Sometimes there may be pus present. If this happens you should contact your GP as a course of antibiotics may be necessary.

## Bleeding

Very occasionally a wound may start to bleed. Most bleeding can be stopped by simply applying pressure to the wound for 5-10 minutes. If the affected area is a limb, keeping it raised will also help.

## Scarring

It is impossible to perform an operation without leaving a scar, although we do everything we can to minimise this. The scar usually fades in time, but sometimes this takes months.

Raised scarring, can sometimes develop a few weeks after surgery. This occurs only in a few people. It is more common in people of Afro-Caribbean origin. You can reduce the risk of this occurring by looking after the scar as advised. If you have had any problems with thickened scars in the past please tell us.

If you have any concerns before or after the procedure, don't hesitate to call us.

**The Department is open  
Monday to Friday from 9am to 4pm.**



Glasgow Directorate of Dermatology  
Glasgow Royal Infirmary

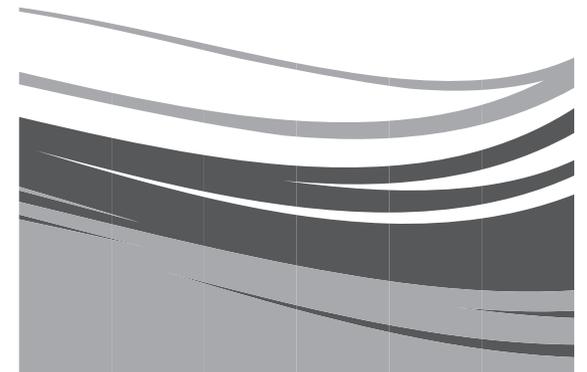
# Skin Biopsy

Date: .....

Time: .....

Dermatology Outpatient Department

☎ 0141 201 5456



Your Doctor will already have explained the need for you to have a skin biopsy. We hope the information and advice contained in this leaflet will help to answer any questions you may have about the procedure. If you have any concerns please discuss them fully with your Doctor or Nurse before the procedure.

## **Before the Procedure**

### **Your diet**

You may eat and drink normally.

### **Your appointment**

Your minor operation will take between 20-30 minutes and you will be able to go home directly afterwards. If you feel nervous you can bring a friend or relative with you. All patients under sixteen should be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

### **Your consent**

You will be asked to sign a consent form. When you are asked to sign this form please tell us about any tablets, medicines or sprays that you are using. If you are taking medication, such as Aspirin or Warfarin please tell us. Also tell us if you have any known allergies.

## **Local anaesthetic**

In most cases, a local anaesthetic is injected just under the skin around the operation area. This causes a sharp sting which lasts 5-10 seconds. The operation will then be pain free. Please tell us if you have previously experienced any difficulty when having a local anaesthetic.

## **Stitches**

Most procedures will be small and require only a few stitches. Stitches will usually be left in place for between one and two weeks. Some areas heal more quickly than others, for example, stitches on the face will normally be removed sooner than those on the back or the thighs.

## **After the Procedure**

You will be asked to make an appointment to have your stitches removed, either here at the Department or at your own GP's Surgery. We advise if possible that you leave the dressings in place for 48 hours. After that the wound should be kept as dry as possible until the stitches are removed.

Your wound will probably feel a little sore for a few days but any discomfort will soon disappear as the wound heals. Newly healed wounds take several weeks to gain strength and taking care during this time will improve the final appearance of the scar. It is sensible to avoid sports and other strenuous activities which may stretch the scar or prolong the healing process.

Following skin biopsy you will usually already have been given a return appointment to discuss the result and check that everything has healed satisfactorily.

## **Problems that can sometimes occur**

In the vast majority of cases there will be no complications or long-term side effects. There are, however, a few problems which can occur.

## **Inflammation**

Normally you will notice a slight redness around the stitches which may cause some discomfort. This usually settles down on its own or after the stitches have been removed.