

Information about **Skin Biopsy**

Name:

Time:

Clinic J

Dermatology Outpatient Department

New Stobhill Hospital

133 Balornock Road

Glasgow G21 3UW

 **0141 355 1276**



Your Dermatologist will already have explained to you why you need a skin biopsy. This leaflet will answer any questions you may have about the procedure. If you have any concerns please discuss them fully with your Dermatologist or any member of the nursing team before your biopsy.

It is vital that if you cannot keep your appointment, that you phone the Department, giving plenty of time so that we can use your appointment for someone else.

Before the Procedure:

Your diet

You may eat and drink normally before your biopsy.

Your appointment

You can expect to be in the clinic for up to 4 hours. However, the procedure normally takes 20-30 minutes. Occasionally it may take a little longer, the doctor carrying out the procedure will try to keep you informed if this is the case. **Please remember this while you are waiting.** We will explain any delays to you.

If you feel nervous or anxious about the procedure you may bring a relative or friend with you. Please note that friends or relative cannot accompany you into the biopsy room. **A parent or guardian must accompany all patients under 16 years of age.** You may go home immediately after your biopsy.

Your consent

Before signing the consent form please tell us if you are taking any medicines, especially Warfarin or Aspirin. Also, tell us if you have any allergies.

Local anaesthetic

In most cases we inject a local anaesthetic just under the skin. This will be a little bit uncomfortable and cause a stinging sensation for 5-10 seconds. The procedure will then be pain-free. Please tell us if you have ever had any reaction to a local anaesthetic in the past.

Stitches

Most biopsies are small and only need a few stitches. Depending on the area of the biopsy stitches should be left in place for approximately 5-10 days. Your Dermatologist will tell you when your stitches have to be removed.

After the Procedure

You should make an appointment to have your stitches removed by the nurse at your health centre or GP surgery.

We advise you to keep your wound covered for 48 hours. After this you can gently wash the area until the stitches have been removed. If the wound becomes too wet it may become infected and burst, causing ugly scarring. Avoid sports and other strenuous activities for a few weeks to prevent problem scarring. The wound site may be uncomfortable for a few days.


Problems which can occur

You may notice a slight redness around the stitches, which might cause a little discomfort. This usually settles down after the stitches are removed.

Infection

The wound area can sometimes become infected. The signs of wound infection are pain, swelling, redness and pus. If this happens you should contact your own doctor, as you will need a course of antibiotics.

Bleeding

If your wound starts to bleed apply pressure to the site for 5-10 minutes, if possible keep it raised. If the bleeding does not stop you should contact your own doctor or NHS24 on  111.

Scarring

It is impossible to perform an operation without leaving a scar, although we do everything we can to minimise this. Most scars fade in time. Please let us know if you have had problems with thickened scars in the past. You can help to reduce the risk of problem scarring by following the advice we have given you.

We will allocate you a named nurse to look after you when you are in the department. You will also have an associate nurse.

If you have any questions or concerns either before or after your biopsy please do not hesitate to contact any of the team.

The Department is open:

- Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8am to 7pm
- Tuesday from 8am to 5pm
- Thursday from 8am to 1pm

Closed on public holidays.