

Information for patients attending for

## Dermatology Skin Surgery

### Department of Dermatology

New Victoria Hospital  
Grange Road, Glasgow G42 9LF

Tel: 0141 347 8475

Queen Elizabeth University Hospital  
1345 Govan Road, Glasgow G51 4TF

Tel: 0141 452 3238

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

### About Skin Surgery

We have given you an appointment to attend the Dermatology Department for a skin surgical procedure or 'biopsy'.

#### What is meant by skin surgery?

Skin surgery is performed to remove a skin lesion, or to help to make a diagnosis. We use a local anaesthetic which numbs the skin and does not cause drowsiness. The whole procedure can be from 15 minutes to an hour depending on the complexity.

#### Please attend in good time

The doctor will try to see you on time but this is not always possible.

#### About the procedure

The doctor will explain exactly what they are going to do and ask you to sign or confirm your consent form.

The local anaesthetic injection is slightly uncomfortable but eases quickly. Most people will need stitches. At the time of surgery we will also tell you about where and when any stitches can be removed; your GP's nurse may do this for you. Please note this is a Teaching

Hospital. Qualified doctors at different stages in their training may carry out your procedure. Specialist Nurses also perform surgery. They will have Consultant supervision where required.

#### Results

We will send the removed tissue to the pathology department for further examination. We may give you your results by letter or at another clinic appointment. We will also tell your GP. Sometimes the result can take up to 6 weeks.

#### What we need to know

In order to prevent problems or delay, you must tell the doctor as soon as possible if:

- You have ever had a severe **reaction** to local anaesthetic or any other medications.
- You have a **heart pacemaker and ideally what type or any other electrical implant.**
- You have a **heart valve problem.**
- You have any **bleeding tendency** such as haemophilia.
- You take **warfarin** or other drugs to thin the blood including **aspirin.**

**Please bring all your medications with you.**

## Can I drive afterwards?

Usually the surgery will not directly affect your driving, unless dressings need to be applied near the eye or the lesion biopsied is on the hands or feet. You may wish to bring someone with you if you feel anxious about the procedure, but they would not routinely be in the surgical operating room.

## After Skin Surgery

You should avoid alcohol for 24 hours after surgery.

- **Pain**

Severe pain is unusual following skin surgery and simple painkillers such as paracetamol are best. Avoid aspirin as a painkiller unless prescribed as this may increase risk of bleeding.

- **Bleeding**

If you find that the wound starts to bleed again some hours after surgery you can apply sustained pressure with a tissue, clean cloth or handkerchief for at least 20 minutes. You should seek medical advice thereafter should it continue to bleed.

- **Infection**

If the wound becomes increasingly red, inflamed, tender or discharges it may be infected. It is important to contact

us or your doctor in case you need an antibiotic.

- **Stretching of Wounds**

During the first few weeks if your wound opens up or your stitches break or loosen you should contact us for advice.

- **Scars**

Scars are inevitable following surgery, but in some areas, particularly the upper arms, back and chest, unsightly thickened scars are more likely to occur.

- **Numbness or tingling**

Minor skin nerves are sometimes damaged during surgery, leading to altered sensations or numbness. Usually the sensation gradually returns to normal.

## If you need to contact us

**During working hours (9–5pm)**  
phone Dermatology Outpatients at:

Queen Elizabeth University Hospital:  
**(0141) 452 3238**

New Victoria Hospital:  
**(0141) 347 8262**

At other times you can phone Ward 2A at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital on **0141 452 3743** for advice.

