

Minor Surgery for Skin Lesions under Local Anaesthesia

PATIENT INFORMATION

This information will try and answer some questions you may have about your minor surgery. If you have any other questions that we haven't covered please ask the nurse or doctor.

When will I have my surgery?

You should receive an appointment to have your minor surgery within 6 months. Please contact us on (04) 8060 358 and leave a message if you have not received an appointment in this timeframe.

The week before your surgery

If you are taking **warfarin** or other medication to thin your blood please let the Doctor know. You will need to have an extra INR test the week before your surgery. If the result of this test is above 2.5 please let us know.

If you have any **allergies** please let us know.

If you have a **pacemaker** please let us know.

Arrange for someone to come with you to your appointment that can drive you home after your minor surgery.

We recommend simple petroleum jelly (Vaseline) to protect your wound after surgery while it is healing. Please have a clean supply ready to use after your surgery.

On the day of your minor surgery

You can continue to eat your normal meals before your appointment.

Take all your regular medications (including aspirin) as usual unless the Dermatologist has given you other instructions.

If the lesion is on your face please don't wear any makeup to your appointment.

If you smoke it is best to avoid smoking on the day of your operation and while your skin heals. Smoking reduces the blood flow to the skin. This means the area won't heal so well and there will be an increased risk of you getting a wound infection.

What will happen during minor surgery?

The nurse will be present during the procedure. A local anaesthetic will be injected around the lesion by the Dermatologist. The injection causes a stinging sensation which will only last a few moments. We will then wait for the area to become numb before starting the surgery. If you feel any pain please let us know.

There will be some bleeding in the area where the lesion is removed. Diathermy may be used to seal the blood vessels and stop bleeding. The diathermy machine will make a beeping sound and you may notice a slight burning smell.

After your minor surgery

Before you are discharged home after your surgery, you will be given written instructions on how to care for your wound.

Follow Up / Results

You may have a follow up appointment arranged with the Dermatologist or you may be asked to contact your GP or Practice Nurse for the result of your skin biopsy. The results should be available in approximately 2 weeks.

Contact us:

Department: Dermatology Outpatients
Level 2, Wellington Hospital

Phone: (04) 806 0358

Hours: 8.30am-4pm, Monday to Friday

OR:

Kenepuru Outpatients

Phone: (04)385 5999 Ext 2939