

## Removal of skin growths

This leaflet has been designed to improve your understanding of your forthcoming treatment and contains answers to many of the common questions. If you have any other questions that the leaflet does not answer or would like further explanation please ask.

### The problem

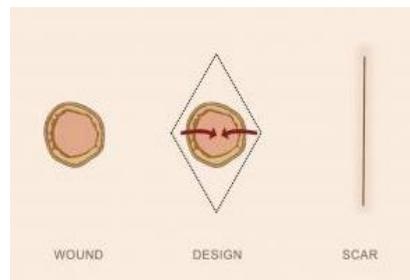
You have a lump on the skin that requires removal. It will already have been discussed with you that this is the best form of treatment. The removal involves a local anaesthetic, ie: you are going to be awake but the area will be numb so that you feel no pain.

### What does the operation involve?

First the area in and around the skin lesion will be numbed with a local anaesthetic injection. This takes a few minutes to work. An antiseptic solution may then be used to clean the area and special ink used to mark out the piece of skin to be removed. The amount of time that the removal takes obviously varies depending on the size of the area involved but typically it may take between 20 and 30 minutes.

### Is anything done after the area is removed?

Removal of the lesion leaves a hole in the skin. This hole gently pulled together with stitches. Some of these stitches may be dissolvable but often stitches on the skin need removal. In order to close the skin neatly the hole is often made into the shape of an ellipse. This means that the scar can be up to three times longer than the skin growth was in the first place. The doctor who is going to perform the operation will discuss this in more detail with you when you fill in the consent form for the procedure.



### What should I expect afterwards?

There will be some mild pain and discomfort once the numbness of the local anaesthetic injection has worn off. You may need to take simple painkillers. There is a variable amount of swelling and bruising which tends to be worse for the first few days after surgery but has usually settled after a fortnight.

### Do I need to take any time off work?

Depending on the type of work you do and where on your body the operation is performed it may be best to take the rest of the day off.

### What are the possible problems?

Bleeding is uncommon. Should it occur it can usually be stopped by applying pressure over the area for at least 10 minutes with a rolled up handkerchief or swab. Infection is also uncommon but may occur in up to 1 in 20 cases.

### Will I need further appointments?

You may need any an appointment for stitch removal. This will be arranged following surgery. It is routine for any skin lesions to be sent for examination under a microscope so that we can tell you what the lesion was and whether it has been completely removed. This test takes time to carry out and the results may not be available for a couple of weeks.