

## The Jephson Dermatology Centre – Punch Biopsies

### Introduction

You have been referred to have a skin biopsy (sample) taken. This will help the consultant to confirm a diagnosis or gather information that will help contribute to a diagnosis.

### Guidance for Patients

#### Punch Biopsy

This procedure requires a small sample of skin to be removed and sent to the appropriate laboratory where it will be examined. A histology report will be written within 6 weeks and then reviewed by your Dermatologist.

#### The Procedure

You will be asked questions before the procedure including your medication history. The doctor or nurse performing the punch biopsy will either confirm or ask for your written consent. You should only give this if you have completely understood the procedure. The doctor or nurse will be happy to repeat the information and to answer any questions.

Local anaesthetic by injection will be given to numb the skin where the biopsy will be taken. A sample of skin will then be removed using a small instrument. It may be necessary to stitch the skin afterwards to help speed up the healing process. A dressing will be applied to the wound.

#### Risks and Precautions

Once the punch biopsy has been performed, you will be left with a red scar. However this will fade to white with time. If the biopsy has been taken from your chest there is a slight increased risk of developing a thick and raised (keloid) scar which may need additional treatment. If there is a potential risk the consultant will discuss it with you before the procedure takes place.

Although we will ensure the wound site has stopped bleeding, occasionally the site can ooze post-operatively. If this should occur please press the wound site firmly with clean tissue for 10 minutes and the bleeding should stop.

There is a small risk that the wound may become infected. However, to minimize this we have included a paragraph in this leaflet regarding the after care of your wound site.

Should you experience any of these side effects or have any concerns, please contact your GP practice Nurse or the Dermatology Department using the details on the back of this information leaflet.

Do take pain relief if you experience any discomfort eg. Paracetamol.

#### Caring for your wound

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Keep the wound site dry.

Remove dressing after ..... day(s).

Clean biopsy site with water.

Any additional information.....

.....

.....

A letter will be given to you to contact your GP practice asking the practice nurse to remove your stitches in .....days.

## Important Points to Remember

If the wound becomes painful, red, inflamed or is weeping, please contact your GP or practice nurse as soon as possible as this can be the clinical signs for infection.

## Appointments

An appointment will be sent out in the post should the Dermatologist wish to see you following their review of your biopsy result. Otherwise you will receive the results in a letter.

**If you have not received your biopsy result (written or a phone call) within 6 weeks of your biopsy, then please contact the Dermatology Secretaries.**

## Your comments about the Dermatology Service

We continually review the service to meet your needs and therefore welcome your views. If you wish to comment on any aspect of your care, including your treatment and the information given to you via this leaflet, please write to the Clinical Nurse Specialist (address on the back page).

Patients are occasionally asked to complete a questionnaire so their views of the service can be assessed.

## What should I do if my health is deteriorating?

Please contact our call centre on 01926 600036

In emergencies, please contact NHS 111 for advice.

## Contact Us

The Jephson Dermatology Centre Warwick Hospital  
Lakin Road

## **My Planned Care Patient Information Platform**

Warwick CV34 5BW

Tel: 01926 495321 Ext 4793  
Monday–Friday 8.00am–4.30pm

or

Dermatology Secretaries  
01926 495321  
Ext 8033/4247/4569/4100/4969/4425/8634  
(Monday-Friday 8.00am–5.00pm)  
Team Assistant: Ext 8121  
Email photographs to [Dermatologyphotos@swft.nhs.uk](mailto:Dermatologyphotos@swft.nhs.uk)