

MINOR SURGERY

For the removal of small skin lesions, skin tags, cysts and other lumps and bumps.

PURPOSE

Skin lesions are removed for a variety of reasons. It can be done for medical reasons such as to get rid of any growths we suspect of being skin cancers, or cysts that can grow or get infected if left in place. We can also remove skin tags or other lesions that are irritating or annoying but not medically worrying. We don't do cosmetic surgery and will refer to specialists if requested.

PROCESS

The process is done under local anaesthetic just like at the dentist. We inject the anaesthetic around the piece we are removing. This can sting a little but it doesn't last long, and after that you should feel no pain but you will probably feel a little pressure. Please let us know if you have had a bad reaction to local anaesthetic in the past.

Once the area is numb the piece will be removed. The piece we take out often looks a lot larger than the original lesion. This is to make sure we can close the wound nicely, and that we have removed all of the lesion, as it is not always visible to the naked eye.

The wound will be closed with stitches and a dressing put on to cover it and keep it clean.

RISKS AND SIDE EFFECTS

The wound is likely to be a little sore for a while once the anaesthetic wears off in a couple of hours. Paracetamol should be enough to control it.

The wound might bleed a little. If the blood soaks through the dressing put some pressure on it and return to see the nurse.

With any procedure there is always the possibility of infection. If the wound becomes more sore or red and weepy, please come back and see your nurse as it could be infected.

Occasionally the procedure needs to be repeated if the lesion has not been fully removed. The laboratory report will tell us this and when we give you the results after about a week we will let you know. Please make sure we have your correct details on record in case we need to get in touch before you have your stitches out.

There is always the risk of scarring after a surgical removal and your nurse will show you how to reduce this when the stitches are taken out.

AFTER CARE

Please keep the wound clean and dry for 24 hours. After that you can have a normal shower but please make sure the wound is well dried before you replace the dressing.

The stitches need to be taken out in 7 to 10 days so please make an appointment to see your nurse to get this done. To get the best scar your wound needs to be taped for up to three months and your nurse will show you how to do this.

COST

There is a charge for having a minor surgery procedure, the basic breakdown of costs is:

Initial Doctor consultation	15 minutes - to discuss a treatment plan	\$18.50 - \$40.00
Minor surgery procedure charge	Nurse consultation 30-45 minutes Doctor consultation 15-30 minutes and consumables used for the procedure	\$165.00 - \$225.00



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Free Nurse consultation	<i>10 mins - in 5 to 10 days to take out the stiches</i>	\$0.00
Total cost		\$183.50 - \$265.00

If you want to see a Doctor or nurse about the wound between having the procedure done and the removal of stitches or afterwards, there will be an additional charge.