

Patient Information Leaflet

Minor Surgery

INTRODUCTION

Skin lesions are very common and can be in the form of warts, skin tags and raised moles. At DermAdvance, we can remove benign skin lesions such as these following a short surgical procedure under a local anaesthetic.

Anyone, of any age, can suffer from benign skin lesions. The majority of these lesions don't require any treatment whatsoever; however their removal might be a preferred course of action if they are obstructive, suspicious looking or the individual wishes to improve their aesthetic appearance.

How are they removed?

The removal technique depends upon the lesion in question. All lesions will be carefully examined before being cleaned with an anti-bacterial solution to limit the risk of infection after the procedure.

Skin tags, warts and raised benign lesions can be numbed through local anaesthetic and removed using a sharp blade. Moles will be removed by cutting all the way around the identified area.

The procedure will normally take between 15 and 30 minutes, and you should be able to go home just a short while after the operation.

BEFORE YOUR APPOINTMENT:

- Contact us if you are taking an anticoagulant (blood thinning) treatment such as Aspirin, Warfarin, Clopidogrel, Apixabam or Dipyridamole. Generally it is safe to continue the medication, but for larger or multiple lesions we may advise you to alter your blood thinning medication or to seek further advice from the anticoagulant service.
- Please inform us if you have a pacemaker.

AT YOUR APPOINTMENT:

- Please bring with you a list of all your medications.
- Please inform us of any allergies to drugs or dressings.

AFTER YOUR MINOR SURGERY:

- At the end of the procedure you will be given written post-operative advice and you may be asked to make arrangements for the surgical wound to be reviewed in about 7 days.

- Afterwards you will be able to go home and return to your usual activities, but we advise avoiding vigorous exercise or putting strain on the area for 2 weeks to allow healing to take place.

Side effects of minor surgery are usually not severe. The commonest ones are:

- **Pain:** At the time of injection the local anaesthetic may cause a “bee sting”-like sensation for 10-15 seconds, before it numbs the affected area. Pain after the procedure is usually minimal and occasionally requires simple painkillers (such as paracetamol).
- **Bleeding:** After the procedure, signs of blood spotting on the dressing are quite normal as well as bruising around the wound. Very rarely bleeding may continue after the procedure, but this can be effectively controlled by pressure on the wound and elevation of the limb, if appropriate. You will be provided with clear instructions about controlling bleeding after your surgery.
- **Infection:** This is uncommon and you will be provided with clear instructions after your surgery. Occasionally antibiotics are prescribed to prevent infections.
- **Scarring:** Any procedure that involves an incision through the skin will cause the formation of a scar. Usually this fades gradually over several months but occasionally the scar does not fade (keloid or hypertrophic scar). Unfortunately we are unable to predict when this might occur.
- Very occasionally recurrence of the lesion can occur after surgery. Further treatment may be needed.

The lesion will be assessed and removed only if it is clinically benign. Therefore, histopathological analysis is not included. If you wish to have the lesion removed sent for analysis, this can be arranged at extra costs.

