

# Following Curette/Spiral/Shave Excision and Cautery

## What are the aims of this leaflet?

### This leaflet has been written to help you understand more about:

- What you can expect after having surgery.
- How you can take care of your wound.
- Who you can contact if you experience any problems.

## What can you expect following surgery:

- After the area of skin has been removed, the skin is cauterized to stop bleeding. This will leave a small-blackened area, which will form a scab. The area may leak fluid slightly for a few hours following surgery. This is normal.
- The local anaesthetic can take from 3 - 6 hours to wear off.
- Some patients may have pain or discomfort, if so you may take painkillers e.g. Paracetamol. Please **DO NOT** take painkillers containing Aspirin or Ibuprofen.
- Some patients will be asked to attend the department for their wound to be checked or re-dressed.
- If the scab becomes very dry and itchy you can apply Vaseline.
- **ALL PATIENTS WILL HAVE A SCAR!**

The longer the scab is left in place the better the scarring will be! The scar will be red at first but will become paler in time. This may take up to 12 months. Patients with darker skins may lose some pigment (colour) or the area may become darker. In some patients the scar may stretch or become thickened (keloid). This is due to individual susceptibility - every patient is different - there is no way we can know if this will happen. We do however, take every care to keep scarring to a minimum.

- Some wounds may become infected. If you suspect the wound is infected: - a lot of pain, redness, swelling or pus. Contact the department or your GP.
- The histology report/result is usually available between 4-8 weeks after your surgery. Patients who are given an appointment to see the doctor will have the result discussed with them then. Otherwise a letter and the result will be sent to your GP.  
Depending on the result the hospital Doctor may write to you asking you to attend the department to discuss the result and further management/treatment.

## How to take care of your wound:

- Remove the dressing 48 hours after the surgery.
- If you get the wound wet it is important to pat it dry and **DO NOT RUB**.
- The wound area does not necessarily need a dressing but a dressing/plaster may be used to cover the area if you prefer.
- If you stopped taking Aspirin, Warfarin or Clopidogrel before the surgery please recommence taking it the following day.
- We advise all patients not to go swimming for at least 2 weeks after surgery due to the risk of infection.
- Most patients are able to return to work the same day or following day.

## Who to contact if there is a problem:

- If you have any problems or are worried please contact:

The Nursing Staff  
Monday to Friday  
Dermatology Outpatients Department  
Calderdale Royal Hospital  
Telephone No: 01422 224154

Saturday and Sunday  
Contact your own GP  
or  
Accident & Emergency Department

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## If you have any comments about this leaflet or the service you have received you can contact :

Consultant Dermatologist or Sister  
Dermatology Department  
Calderdale Royal Hospital

Telephone No: (01422) 224154

[www.cht.nhs.uk](http://www.cht.nhs.uk)

## If you would like this information in another format or language contact the above.

Potřebujete-li tyto informace v jiném formátu nebo jazyce, obraťte se prosím na výše uvedené oddělení

Jeżeli są Państwo zainteresowani otrzymaniem tych informacji w innym formacie lub wersji językowej, prosimy skontaktować się z nami, korzystając z ww. danych kontaktowych

ਚ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਪ੍ਰਾਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ,  
ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور فارمیٹ طرزبان میں درکار ہوں، تو  
برائے مہربانی مندرجہ بالا شعبے میں ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔

"إذا احتجت الحصول على هذه المعلومة بشكل مغاير أو مترجمة إلى لغة مختلفة فيرجى منك الاتصال بالقسم  
المذكور أعلاه"