



## **Spa Surgical Services Undergoing a Minor Operation Information for patients**



Spa Medical Centre has a proven, excellent track record of consistently delivering the highest quality of surgical care to patients. We pride ourselves on being one of Primary Care's leading surgical providers in Wiltshire and have been successfully delivering a variety of services to all Wiltshire residents since 2004

Your GP has referred you for a minor operation for your skin problem. This may involve the complete removal of your skin lesion or just the removal of a small sample (skin biopsy). The piece of skin removed will be looked at under the microscope, which will help us to diagnose and treat your skin condition.

## BEFORE THE OPERATION

On the day of the surgery please eat normally and take all your regular medications (including aspirin and warfarin) unless advised otherwise. **If you are taking warfarin please have your warfarin blood level (INR) checked at your GP surgery the week before your operation and please bring the result with you.**

## PARKING & ARRIVING AT THE SURGERY

We have free onsite parking and when you arrive at the Surgery please follow the booking in instructions as per your appointment letter, as these vary. We do have a patient lift available and use of a wheelchair if needed. **Please inform us in advance of surgery if you are wheelchair bound.**

A theatre assistant will collect you and take you into the operating theatre. Due to health and safety policy and procedures we are unable to have children in the theatre room.

## PLEASE TELL THE DOCTOR IF

- You are taking warfarin, aspirin, clopidogrel, ticagrelor, Dipyridamole, rivaroxaban, edoxaban, dabigatran or any other blood thinning medication.
- You are allergic to sticky plasters/tape or local anaesthetic or adrenaline.
- You have heart trouble or a pacemaker or are prone to Fainting.
- You have a known blood born infection risk such as hepatitis B or hepatitis C or HIV.
- You have a condition which makes you bleed more easily eg Haemophilia.
- You have had major surgery within the last 3 months.



**Alex Dickenson**  
Theatre Practitioner



**Jodie Buckland**  
Nurse Associate

## Theatre Assistants :



**Bev**



**Sophie**



**Sara**

## The Surgical Team



**Dr Roland Teare**  
Clinical Surgical Lead,  
GP Skin Surgeon & GP

**Dr Fiona Armstrong**  
GP Skin Surgeon &  
GP Partner



**Dr Rupert Gabriel**  
Skin Surgeon



**Mr Nick Reynolds**  
Plastic Surgeon



**Dr William Boyd-Carson**  
GP Skin Surgeon



**Wendy Jones**  
Surgical Clinical  
Nurse Lead



## WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE OPERATION

The doctor will inject local anaesthetic around the site, which numbs the area. This will sting briefly but you should not feel any pain during your operation. If you do have any discomfort, please let the doctor know as you can be given more anaesthetic. The anaesthetic only numbs the affected area, you will be awake for the operation and you will be able to go home afterwards. Minor operations usually taken between 20 and 30 minutes; more complex surgery will of course take longer.

## REMOVING YOUR STITCHES

We often use stitches (sutures) to close the wound after the operation. The type of stitch we use depends on the operation and your skin. Some stitches are dissolvable; others need to be removed and are usually taken out 7-14 days after surgery. This will be done at your own GP surgery and you would need to book an appointment directly with them. If you are due to go on holiday within 2 weeks of your operation we may need to reschedule your operation so that the stitches can be removed before you go.

## AFTER THE OPERATION

If the procedure you are having is very near to the eye please ensure a representative drives you to and from the surgery. Returning to work should be possible straight away in the majority of cases, but the surgeon will advise you on the day.

## RISKS AND SIDE EFFECTS

Any minor operation will have risks including scarring, bleeding and wound infection. The doctor performing the operation will discuss these and any additional risks / side effects with you at the time of operation.

## LOOKING AFTER YOUR WOUND

After your operation you will be given a separate information sheet telling you how to look after your wound.

## WHAT TO EXPECT

- Excellent clinical care with low infection rates
- Low wait times; we pride ourselves on providing an efficient, robust service, well within the national maximum wait times. We are faster than the big hospitals.
- High levels of patient satisfaction. Patients accessing the service rate the overall experience as extremely positive and successful.
- A team of experienced, friendly GP surgeons offering comprehensive patient consultation throughout the treatment pathway.
- The GP skin surgeons are members of the wider multidisciplinary team of skin specialists based at the RUH in Bath. Skin cancer cases that need specialist input are discussed at a weekly team meeting.
- A one stop shop for minor operations
- Information will be shared with your own GP including procedure details, photographic evidence and histology results.
- A robust, efficient and flexible administrative service co-ordinating the entire experience, from referral to follow up appointment.

## CONTACTING US

If you have any concerns, or if you need to change your appointment time, please telephone the Clinic Coordinators on 01225 898014. There is also an answer machine for calls out of hours, which is checked daily.

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For a copy of our privacy policy which is in line with new General Data Protection Regulations, (GDPR) please see our website: [www.spamedicalcentre.co.uk](http://www.spamedicalcentre.co.uk) or telephone a Clinical Coordinator on 01225 898014