

Care of your wound following Skin Curettage

Relief of pain

The local anaesthetic that you have had will wear off over the next 1 or 2 hours. You may need to take a simple pain relief, e.g. paracetamol as directed on the manufacturer's packet, to cover the next 12 to 24 hours.

The dressing

Keep the wound dry and covered for 2 to 3 days. A greasy ointment (e.g. vaseline) can be applied after removal of the dressing to prevent crusting. If the treated wound is dry and healing, the dressing can be left off. If the wound is moist or is in an area where it may catch or rub on clothing, cover with a clean dressing until healed.

The treated area will form a scab. This should be left alone until it reduces or peels off after 2 to 4 weeks.

Curettage and cautery of the skin will inevitably leave a scar. The type of scar will depend on the site and size of the lesion removed.

The pathology result

This is normally available 2 weeks after the sample has been taken.

We will write to you with your pathology result. If you have not received your results within 4 weeks please contact the **Dermatology Department** on **01392 405511**.

Complications

Although some weeping at the site is inevitable, this does not necessarily imply infection.

If you experience persistent pain or weeping from the site after 2 days, you may need to ring Dermatology for advice on **01392 405511**. Alternatively, the practice nurse will be able to assess your wound if you suspect infection.

The signs of infection can be any of the following:

- increasing pain at the site
- swelling
- redness
- a pus-like discharge

Feedback

Comments and suggestions that give us feedback on our practice, e.g. delays in wound healing, pain or dressing problems (and the good things as well) are helpful. You can contact us by writing to:

Clare Parkinson

Dermatology Department

Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital (Heavitree)

Gladstone Road

Exeter EX1 2ED

if you think we could make a difference for others.

The Trust cannot accept any responsibility for the accuracy of the information given if the leaflet is not used by RD&E staff undertaking procedures at the RD&E hospitals.

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