



SKIN SURGERY, LOCAL ANAESTHETIC, APPOINTMENTS AND PROCEDURES

Information for Dermatology patients

This leaflet has been designed to help you prepare for skin surgery procedures by answering a few commonly asked questions.

■ **What will happen?**

The doctor/theatre nurse will describe the procedure fully and answer your questions in the privacy of the theatre. You will be asked to sign the consent form, once you have been fully informed of the risks and benefits of the procedure, and wish to continue.

■ **Why is the procedure needed?**

In order to diagnose your skin condition so that the doctor can offer you the best treatment and/or remove a skin lesion.

■ **Do I need to fast (not eat)?**

You can eat normally. All procedures are done following an injection of local anaesthetic. If you have reacted to a local anaesthetic before it is important to inform the doctor. The injection will sting but the skin quickly becomes numb. Following the injection, you do not feel pain but you will feel touch and pressure. The doctor/theatre nurse will ensure that the anaesthetic has been effective before continuing. You will be awake throughout the procedure.

■ **I regularly take aspirin or warfarin (or other medication such as Clopidogrel or Apixaban) to thin my blood. Should I tell the doctor?**

Yes. It is essential to know when you take tablets that may make you bleed more than normal.

Warfarin

If you take warfarin, you should be given separate information regarding having your blood checked, 3 days prior to the procedure.

■ **Care after the procedure**

A dressing is normally applied to the biopsy site and this should be left on for at least 48 hours. The doctor/theatre nurse will inform you and your General Practitioner details of the results. The nurse will advise you regarding removal of the stitches if used. They will also advise on wound care and post-operative pain control, and give you a wound care leaflet. It is important you follow these instructions to enable healthy healing.

Please be aware that it may not be possible for you to drive home after your appointment. We therefore advise that you make alternative arrangements for travel on the day of your procedure.

■ Common diagnostic test and procedures include the following:

Curettage

An instrument called a curette is used to scrape away the lesion, this leaves a cut surface, like a graze.

Shave biopsy

The skin around and under the lesion is injected with local anaesthetic, this will raise and firm the skin. A sharp scalpel blade is used to precisely remove or take a diagnostic sample from the lesion leaving a shallow cut surface.

Following either 'curettage' or 'shave', an electrosurgical device or chemical is used to stop the bleeding. You may see a dark area of burnt skin. This will flake away naturally as the skin heals. Both of the above procedures may cause scarring, there is a risk of bleeding.

Punch biopsy

A punch biopsy blade is used to take a small round core of tissue ranging from 2mm - 7mm in diameter. 4mm is the more usual size. This allows the pathologist to investigate a full thickness view of the skin. The wound may be closed with a stitch, there is a risk of bleeding and infection. A scar may be seen following the procedure.

Elliptical excision

An ellipse shape is cut around the lesion and it is cut away in a way that enables a flush closure without puckering. Often, the resulting scar is a line. In younger patients, because of natural 'tug' of elastic skin, the scar may be more noticeable - a stretched scar. Some people can develop a thicker scar called a keloid scar. This is a slight risk but one that is impossible to predict. There is a small risk of bleeding or infection. There are different ways of closing the wound if external stitches are used, they will often be removed in 5-14 days.

■ The Dermatology Department is open:

Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm (except Bank Holidays)

0113 249 4655 (Option 1 and Option 2)

- An appointment system operates.
- An appointment will be booked for a time convenient to you.
- Please allow between 30-60 minutes for the procedure.
- Allow two hours for parking.

■ Transport and Parking

Bus services from Leeds City Centre to our Thorpe Park Clinic are: 164 and 165, both run very frequently.

We offer 4 hours free onsite parking, please register your vehicle on the iPad as you enter our clinic.

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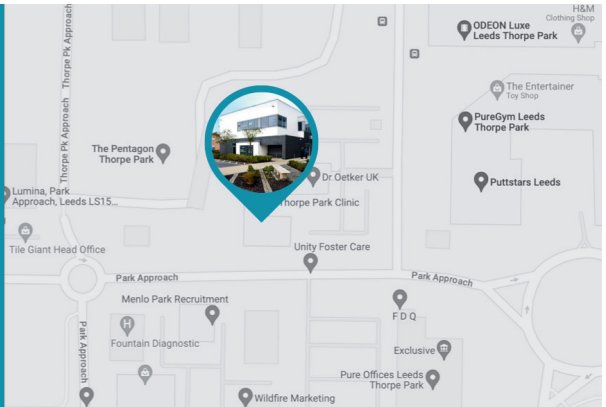


THORPE PARK CLINIC

 4600 Park Approach, Thorpe Park, Leeds, LS15 8GB

 **What3Words:** object.image.ritual

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