



Information for  
patients and  
carers

## Minor Skin Surgery

## Introduction

This leaflet is for anyone who has had an operation to remove a skin lesion.

## What is a biopsy?

It is a minor operation to cut out an area on your skin that is causing concern; it is performed under local anaesthetic.

In an excision biopsy the lesion is removed together with a narrow margin of skin around its edge. Your wound will have either been closed using stitches, a skin graft or another method.

In a punch biopsy a small sample of skin will be removed to enable diagnosis. You will either have stitches or need a dressing until it heals.

## Why are you having the biopsy?

It is not always possible to distinguish between skin cancers and non-cancerous conditions just by looking at them. A biopsy allows the lesion to be removed and analysed under a microscope to make a diagnosis.

## What happens after the operation?

Usually you will be allowed home on the same day but occasionally you may be required to stay in hospital overnight.

If you have a skin graft there will be two wounds; the skin graft itself and the donor area from where the skin graft was taken.

You will be given information on how to care for your wound before you leave the hospital.

## Biopsy results

Some patients will need further treatment following their biopsy dependent on the results.

Most patients will be offered a clinic appointment to discuss their results either via telephone or face to face. This may be a consultant led clinic or a specialist nurse results clinic appointment at Royal Preston Hospital. You may wish to bring a friend or relative with you. If you do not wish to discuss your results over telephone, please advise your consultants secretary and they will arrange a face to face appointment for you.

You may be contacted to attend a clinic at short notice following your biopsy; this is not necessarily bad news, this may depend on clinic availability.

Some patients may not need a clinic appointment but will receive their results in a letter.

If you have not received a clinic appointment or a letter within 8 weeks, please contact your consultant's secretary whose number can be found on your original hospital letter.

## Contact details

If you have any questions or concerns at any time please contact your skin cancer nurse specialist nurses on 01772 522062 or 07525387668.

## Sources of further information

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

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

[www.patient.co.uk](http://www.patient.co.uk)

[www.accessable.co.uk](http://www.accessable.co.uk)

All our patient information leaflets are available on our website for patients to access and download:

[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets)

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If you want to stop smoking you can also contact the Quit Squad Freephone 0800 328 6297.

Please ask if you would like help in understanding this information. This information can be made available in large print and in other languages.

**Gujarati:**

આ માહિતીને સમજવામાં સહાયતા જોઈતી હોય તો કૃપા કરીને પૂછો. આ માહિતી મોટા છપાણા માં અને અન્ય ભાષામાં ઉપલબ્ધ કરી શકાય છે.

**Romanian:**

Vă rugăm să întrebați dacă aveți nevoie de ajutor pentru înțelegerea acestor informații. Aceste informații pot fi puse la dispoziție în format mare și în alte limbi.”

**Polish:**

Poinformuj nas, jeśli potrzebna jest ci pomoc w zrozumieniu tych informacji. Informacje te można również udostępnić dużym drukiem oraz w innych językach

**Punjabi:**

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਸਮਝਣ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮਦਦ ਲੈਣੀ ਚਾਹੋਗੇ ਤਾਂ ਕਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਪੁੱਛੋ। ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਵੱਡੇ ਪ੍ਰਿੰਟ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮੁਹੱਈਆ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ।

**Urdu:**

دوسری زبانوں اور ریڑی اگر آپ کوہی معلومات سمجھنے کے لیے مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو یئچھیا یمن یہ ابی دست بو یسکت ہے براے مہر یمان پو ری چھہی. معلومات

**Arabic:**

مطبوعه بأحرف كبيرة وبلغات إذا كنت تريد مساعدة في فهم هذه المعلومات يرجى أن تطلب آخرى يمكن تو فير هذه المعلومات

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**Division:** Surgery

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