Further advice

Please contact the dermatology department:

- If you have further queries
- If you developed an infection after your operation which required a course of antibiotic tablets for your GP.

Telephone 01935 384871
**Before your operation**

Please let the person seeing you in clinic know:

- If you are taking Aspirin, Dipyriamole, Warfarin or any other blood thinning tablets, such as Dabigatran, Clopidogrel or Rivaroxaban. If you are taking Warfarin please have your INR blood test done 2-3 days before your operation. Please bring the result with you. If your INR is more than 3 we cannot do the operation. Please phone surgical admissions on 01935 384926 to cancel your operation.

- If you do not have your INR blood test done you run the risk of not having your operation on the day.

- If you have a replacement heart valve (tissue or metal)

- If you have a cardiac pacemaker or implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (ICD) You will be advised on whether this will affect your surgery and any additional pre-operative advice will be given.

**On the day of your operation**

It is best if you have someone to come with you to your operation to take you home, especially if your operation is on the face. We would not recommend driving home after your surgery.

Please eat and drink as normal and take your regular medication as normal, unless you have been advised otherwise.

The operation will be done under a local anaesthetic. You should be given further information about the type of procedure you will have. All surgical procedures will result in a permanent scar, depending on the size and complexity of the procedure.

**After your operation**

**Pain relief:** The local anaesthetic will wear off after about 2 hours. You may need to take regular pain relief such as paracetamol for the first few days after your operation.

**Dressing:** Please keep the dressing on and the area dry for 48 hours. The dressing can then be changed. You should receive any other information on your dressing at the time of your operation.

**Bleeding:** If you see any blood coming through the dressing, press firmly on the area, by the clock for 15 minutes. Do not take your dressing off but put an additional “pressure dressing” on top of the original.

**Continued bleeding:** If bleeding continues, please contact your GP or the A&E department and continue to press on the wound.

**Wound discharge or pain:** If this occurs, please make an appointment with your Practice Nurse at the surgery. If it is out of hours please contact the A&E department.

**Removal of stitches**

If you have had stitches, these will need to be re-moved, usually five to 14 days after surgery. This may be at the Dermatology Department or at your doctor’s surgery. You will be given further instruction about this at the time of your operation.

**Return to normal**

**One week:** Most wounds will have healed sufficiently that the area can be soaked in the bath.

**Two weeks:** Most wounds should be strong enough to undertake normal activities.

**One month:** Most wounds should be strong enough for lifting and vigorous exercise.

**Test results**

The skin sample will be sent to the laboratory for analysis. You and your GP will be informed on the result of the test, usually by letter, but please state preference at the time of your surgery. You may be sent a dermatology appointment for results to see a specialist nurse or doctor if further discussion is needed. The results are usually available after two to three weeks, but sometimes may take longer if they are discussed at the multidisciplinary meeting or if a further opinion is required.