

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask a member of the nursing or medical staff, or call the Dermatology/Skin Cancer Specialist Nurse:

Mihaela Savu

Tel: 01935 384906

Mobile: 07990 776684

or email: mihaela.savu@ydh.nhs.uk

Plastics Secretary

Tel: 01935 384887

Dermatology Secretary

Tel: 01935 384871

We would like to thank the Royal Devon & Exeter NHS Foundation trust for allowing us to use the information given in this leaflet.

Patient Information

Care of your wound following skin curettage

**Dermatology
& Plastic Surgery**

www.yeovilhospital.nhs.uk

Relief of pain

The local anaesthetic that you have had will wear off 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 area is then 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 in place until it fades or falls 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

Bathing

The area should be kept covered for the next 3 days. Ideally the wound should be covered until any stitches are removed. After bathing, never leave a wet dressing in place. Wash your hands and change it for a plain plaster. A wet dressing increases your risk of infection.

The pathology result

This is normally available 2 weeks after the sample has been taken. We will write to you with your pathology result.

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 advice from your surgery.

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

Your practice nurse is the first point of contact for any concerns.

Cut this section off