

## Patient Information

# Shave Excision

## *Dermatology & Plastic Surgery*

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

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:

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### **What does it mean?**

Shave excision is a way of removing a superficial lesion from the upper part of the skin. A sharp blade is used to 'shave' the lesion off the skin.

The procedure is usually performed to remove benign (non-cancerous) lesions or to obtain a sample of skin for biopsy purposes.

### **How is it done?**

Once you and the doctor, or specially trained nurse, are happy that the area is numb the operation can start.

The area will be cleaned with an antiseptic wash. The lesion is then shaved off flush to the skin. There may be a small amount of bleeding, which is usually stopped with cautery (a method of sealing the blood vessels with an instrument that emits heat).

### **What complications may occur with this type of surgery?**

- Bleeding after surgery is minimal and usually controlled by pressure and a dressing if appropriate
- Scarring occurs after all surgery, but usually fades with time. The vast majority of patients are satisfied with the cosmetic appearance of their scar. Rarely, the mole may recur - the scar becomes slightly raised, and the area may have a light brown, dark brown or pink colour. Hair may re-grow

- Pain after this type of surgery is unusual but paracetamol (such as Panadol) can be taken if the area is uncomfortable
- You will be given a wound care advice sheet that covers post-operative care and what you should do if problems arise.

### **After Surgery**

Vaseline or antibiotic ointment will be applied and a dressing if appropriate. You will usually be able to return to work after your surgery.

### **General note**

This information sheet gives an overview of Shave Excision but cannot cover all eventualities. If you have any questions after reading this information please let the nurse know whilst you are in the clinic, or before you go for your operation. The medical staff will do their best to provide any further information and answer any questions that you may have.