

DR REBECCA AYERS
Plastic, Reconstructive and Hand Surgeon

ADVICE FOLLOWING SKIN CANCER EXCISION

When will I get the results?

The excised piece of skin is analysed in the laboratory to confirm the diagnosis and ensure that the lesion has been removed. Results are available 7-10 days following the procedure.

When are sutures removed?

Between 7-14 days following surgery depending on the local of the lesion. Rebecca will let you know the arrangements for suture removal.

How should I care for my wound after my operation?

Simple wounds (with sutures only) are usually kept dry for 48 hours and then can be washed briefly with clean running water. Please do not have a bath or use a swimming pool until the wound is completely healed. Micropore tape should stay on the wound and may be replaced if required.

Skin grafts need to be kept completely dry for a week and until the first dressing change.

How should I care for me after my operation!

Rest and avoid heavy lifting or straining. This is really for the first week. Try and elevate the body part with the wound if possible.

Pain relief.

Local anaesthetic should last for 4-6 hours. Please start taking pain relief regularly. Paracetamol or Panadeine (paracetamol & codeine) with Voltaren or Brufen (if tolerated) is usually sufficient for most people.

Local anaesthetic in the lip / face may mean the lip is numb for the rest of the day – please be careful of hot food and fluid.

What should I worry about?

Bleeding: It is not unusual for there to be some bleeding when the adrenaline wears off. Firm pressure with a clean facecloth/ tea towel, elevation of the wound and rest should usually settle bleeding. If not you may need to contact me.

Infection: Increasing redness, pain, discharge from the wound needs review and probably antibiotics. You may contact me or your GP.

Scarring: Rebecca will discuss scar management with you to maximize the result of your operation.

Removal of sutures

Pain relief

Follow up appointment