

## **Skin Operations at Hadleigh Practice**

This leaflet is to help you decide on whether you wish to go ahead with skin surgery as discussed with your doctor. It is important that you are happy with the decision and so if you have any questions please discuss these with your doctor before being placed on the surgery waiting list.

Skin surgery at Hadleigh may be carried out by a trained nurse or GP. As a teaching practice, it may also be carried by a GP registrar, who is a fully qualified doctor, gaining experience in general practice.

Surgery may be performed for a variety of different skin conditions, some more common than others, and on different parts of the body. As such, no two procedures are ever the same, but some aspects are similar. Skin surgery is usually done with a local anaesthetic injection just under the skin. This normally stings for a few seconds whilst taking effect. You must remain still whilst this is being done. Once done the area will become numb and you should feel no pain during the operation, though you may feel tugging and pulling. Sometimes, a top up of anaesthetic is needed and should you feel any discomfort you should let the operating surgeon know.

Prior to surgery, please let your doctor and operating surgeon know if you are on warfarin, aspirin, clopidogrel or anti-inflammatory drugs such as ibuprofen, naproxen or diclofenac. Please let your doctor know if you have any allergies to any medications or previous anaesthetics, or to iodine.

On the day of surgery, please make provisions for someone to bring you to and from your appointment. Relatives are generally not permitted in the operating room unless accompanying a child. In general we will not be able to discuss any medical issues unrelated to the actual procedure. Thank you for your understanding on this point.

## Risks

All surgical procedures carry some degree of risk. These will be discussed at the time you are listed for surgery and you will be asked to sign a consent form to indicate that you have considered the risks and benefits and are happy to proceed with the surgery. It should be noted that in general, because of the type of surgery performed at Hadleigh, it is generally considered to be low risk, but it cannot be guaranteed that complications will not occur. You will have opportunity to ask questions specific to your particular procedure at your initial consultation.

## Afterwards

If sutures/stitches are used they will usually be removed at a second appointment 7-10 days later. Other specific instructions may be discussed with you after the procedure, on the same day.

Healing is a gradual process and may take days, or sometimes weeks. Occasional oozing from the wound may occur in the first 48 hours. If this happens, apply sustained pressure for 10 mins and this should stop the oozing. If it persists, or is more significant, please give us a call, or out-of-hours seek alternative medical attention.

If a biopsy has been performed and a sample sent to the lab, it is important you call the surgery after 2 weeks to obtain the result and find out if anything extra needs to be done.

If you experience any other difficulties after the procedure, someone will generally be at hand to give telephone or face-to-face advice.