



West Hertfordshire  
Teaching Hospitals  
NHS Trust



# A guide to...

## Advice for patients following shave excision or curettage & cautery

### *Patient information*

**Dermatology Department**  
Watford General Hospital  
Hemel Hempstead Hospital  
St Albans City Hospital

If you need this leaflet in another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01923 217 187** or email [westherts.pals@nhs.net](mailto:westherts.pals@nhs.net)



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|------------------------|-----------------------------|
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## Advice for patients following removal of a skin lesion by Shave Excision or Curettage and Cautery

You have a follow up appointment on: .....

We will write with your results in approximately four weeks

- You do NOT have any stitches in your wound
- Your wound is similar to a deep graze and may take up to six weeks to heal
- Please keep your wound covered and dry for the first two to three days
- After this you can remove the dressing, wash as normal and dry around the area. Then apply Vaseline and a plaster or dressing.
- A scab will form over the wound. Try not to pick or remove the scab. Keep the scab soft with Vaseline applied once a day under a plaster or exposed to the air, until the scab drops off.
- Once your scab has fallen off, the underlying scar is often red or pink for a while until it fades to a white scar after several months.

### Things that are normal

- Minor pain or discomfort may develop when the local anaesthetic wears off a few hours after the procedure. The discomfort may last for a few days. If you wish, you can take Paracetamol. Please avoid Aspirin or Ibuprofen because these may cause bleeding.
- Minor redness around the wound with no pain or fever is normal.

- Minor bleeding may rarely occur a few hours after the operation. Apply firm, constant pressure over the dressing or wound using a clean towel or piece of kitchen roll for 10 minutes or until the bleeding has stopped. You should then change the dressing.
- Localised swelling and bruising around the wound site can occur and are not worrying.

### Things that are NOT normal

- Severe pain, not relieved by taking regular paracetamol
- Significant bleeding that doesn't stop with pressure
- Extensive bruising or swelling
- Increased redness, pain, swelling discharge or a fever. These may indicate a wound infection.
- If the wound does not heal within six weeks

If any of the above occurs during normal working hours (9.00am to 5.00pm), please telephone the dermatology department on one of the following numbers:

Hemel Hempstead Hospital Dermatology secretaries:  
**01442 287 467**

St Albans City Hospital Dermatology secretaries:  
**01727 897 837**

Watford General Hospital Dermatology, answer phone:  
**01923 217 655**

If a problem occurs during the evening or weekend, please attend the Urgent Care Centre at Hemel Hempstead Hospital or Watford General Hospital. Alternatively you could contact your GP out of hour's service.