

Shave Excision or Curettage with Cautery or Driclor

Patient Information

Prosser White Dermatology Centre



The Patient Information Leaflets page on the Trust website is available on the link:
<https://www.wwl.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets> or scan the QR code.

Author ID:	AF
Leaflet Ref:	Derm 067
Version:	4
Leaflet title:	Shave Excision or Curettage with Cautery or Driclor
Last review:	October 2022
Expiry date:	October 2024



Shave Excision and Curettage

These two procedures are used to remove lesions that are confined to the upper layer or surface of the skin.

Both procedures involve using a sharp instrument, either a ring or a flat blade, to scrape off the skin lesion.

Important information

If you have a pacemaker anywhere in the body or a cochlear implant, it is very important that you inform the Doctor or Nurse, as cautery can interfere with its performance (see below).

What does it involve

The Doctor or Nurse will explain to you the reason why your skin lesion needs treatment, the procedure involved and any associated risks. They will then ask you to sign a consent form to give them permission to continue with the procedure.

The person performing the procedure will inject local anaesthetic into the area surrounding the lesion to be treated. This can cause minor discomfort and a stinging sensation which normally lasts less than 10 seconds. This will make the skin go numb, so no pain should be felt during the procedure. You may feel a pushing sensation, but this should not be painful.

The skin lesion is then scraped off with either a ring blade (curette) or a flat blade (shave).

As with any surgery, you cannot cut the skin without it bleeding; this is usually minor and can be stopped using two methods:

1. The use of a hot pointed instrument (cautery) to seal the blood vessels and stop bleeding.

If you have a pacemaker anywhere in the body or cochlear implant, it is very important that you inform the Doctor or Nurse, as cautery can interfere with its performance.

2. The use of a chemical called Driclor (Aluminium Chloride Hexahydrate) which stops bleeding by clotting the blood and sealing the small vessels.

Depending on the wound and where it is, it may be covered with a dressing.

Aftercare following surgery

Your wound may be tender one to two hours after surgery when the local anaesthetic wears off. Paracetamol (two tablets) can be taken every four to six hours as required (a maximum of eight tablets in 24 hours).

- If you have a dressing in place, you will be told when to take this off, although it is usually after 24 hours, you will notice that a scab will form.
- Once the dressing has been removed, you may apply petroleum jelly twice daily over the wound area until it heals.
- If there is any bleeding, this usually occurs as the anaesthetic wears off (one to two hours after surgery). If this does happen, press firmly on top of the wound using folded swabs (which will have been given to you by the nurses) for 10 to 15 minutes. If there is a dressing in place, this need not be removed; press on top of it. If there is no dressing, press directly on to the wound. If it is still bleeding after this time, seek medical attention.
- Try to keep the wound dry for 24 hours, after which it may be gently washed and dried, taking care not to knock off the scab.
- If the wound becomes red or very painful, consult your GP or Walk in Centre for advice.
- There are no stitches to be removed after curettage or shave excision.
- The wound will take approximately three to four weeks to heal over. It may initially be red or pink in colour, but gradually reduces in colour and size over several months.

Benefits

Benefits are to enable diagnosis and removal of skin lesion, with minimal scarring.

Alternatives

There are no alternatives.

Risks

- Scarring – it is impossible to cut or curette the skin without scarring in some way. Your Doctor or Nurse will treat the lesion to keep scarring to a minimum. However, certain individuals sometimes have an abnormal response to the skin healing and as a result, they may get larger and more raised scars than usual. This is known as keloid or hypertrophic scarring. The risk is higher on the shoulders, upper back and chest, or if you have a family history of such scars. This can be treated, but the thickening may be permanent. Scars from curettage or shave excision are usually flat and / or slightly depressed and white; they are a similar size and shape to that of the original skin lesion.

- Infection - as with any procedure, there is a small risk of infection, the risks of which will be explained to you before and after surgery, and what to do if the wound becomes infected.
- Bleeding - this is usually minimal and will be stopped using one of the two methods mentioned previously, cautery or Driclor.

Contact information

If you have any concerns about this medicine or your condition, please contact us at the Dermatology Department by telephoning 01942 264748 or speak to your GP.

Please use this space to write notes or reminders.

Comments, Compliments or Complaints

The Patient Relations/Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Department provides confidential on the spot advice, information and support to patients, relatives, friends, and carers.

Contact Us

Tel: 01942 822376 (Monday to Friday 9am until 4pm)

The Patient Relations/PALS Manager
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary
Wigan Lane
Wigan
WN1 2NN

Ask 3 Questions

Become more involved in decisions about your healthcare. You may be asked to make choices about your treatment. To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions:

1. What are my options?
2. What are the positives and negatives of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?



How We Use Your Information

For details on how we collect, use, and store the information we hold about you, please see patient information leaflet, Ref. **Corp 006** How we use your information, this can be found on the Patient Information Leaflets page on the Trust website, see details on the front cover.

This leaflet is also available in audio, large print, Braille, and other languages upon request. For more information, please ask in the department/ward.

© Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.
All rights reserved. Not to be reproduced in whole or in part without the permission of the copyright owner.

Call 111 first when it's less urgent than 999.



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

GOLD AWARD 2021

Proudly serving those who serve.

Phone: 0808 802 1212

Text: 81212

www.veteransgateway.org.uk

