

Vulval Biopsy

Patient Information

Gynaecology Department



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.

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Introduction

You will probably have been referred to our department by your GP due to irritation/ soreness in the Vulval area. The specialist may want to do a vulval biopsy during your visit to help identify the cause of your irritation/ soreness.

How is the biopsy performed?

The specialist will clean the area first and then inject some local anaesthetic into the affected area. This can sting, but it works quickly to numb the area, so that you should not feel the biopsy. Usually, a punch biopsy will be performed; this is where a small instrument is used to take a little biopsy (approximately 4mm size). Once the piece of tissue is removed, a stitch may be put in to help stop the bleeding. If a stitch isn't required, a chemical called Silver Nitrate may be applied to the area instead.

Benefits

The piece of tissue removed will be sent to the laboratory to be analysed. The results will help us to diagnose and treat your vulval condition.

Risks

There is a small risk of bleeding following the biopsy. If you notice any bleeding, you can apply firm, continuous pressure to the area for 20 minutes. If the bleeding persists, you can ring the Women's Health Unit during normal hours, or Swinley Ward if it is out of hours. (numbers below).

There is a small risk of infection following the biopsy. If the area becomes red or swollen, or you notice any discharge from the area, you can contact your GP; outside of normal hours, you can contact Swinley Ward.

Advice following the procedure

Once the local anaesthetic has worn off, you may feel some discomfort. Mild painkillers should help to relieve any discomfort. Please follow the dosage instructions on the packet or ask your pharmacist for advice.

You may find that the biopsy area stings when you pass water. It may be more comfortable to pour a glass of tepid water over the area whilst you pass urine, so as to dilute the urine and help relieve any stinging.

It is advisable not to bathe or shower for the first 24 hours, as this may cause some bleeding. After this time, it is preferable to shower rather than bathe for 7-10 days, to give the area time

to heal; please avoid the use of shower gel or soap on the biopsy area. If you only have access to a bath, please limit the amount of time that the biopsy site is under water initially and avoid adding bathing products.

The stitch will dissolve; this can take 2-3 weeks sometimes.

Your results can take 4-6 weeks. Your specialist will either write to you with the results or ask you to come back to clinic to discuss your results in person.

Contact Information

Women's Health Care Unit Leigh

Monday to Friday 8.30am – 5pm

Telephone **01942 264960 or 01942 264959**

Out of hours

Swinley Ward

Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan

01942 822072

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.

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