

CARE OF YOUR WOUND FOLLOWING SKIN CURETTAGE

Relief of pain

The local anaesthetic that you have had will wear off over the next 1 or 2 hours. You may need to take a simple pain relief, e.g. paracetamol as directed on the manufacturer's packet, to cover the next 12 to 24 hours.

The dressing

Keep the wound dry and covered for 2 to 3 days. A greasy ointment (e.g. Vaseline) can be applied after removal of the dressing to prevent crusting. If the area is then dry and healing, the dressing can be left off. If the wound is moist or is in an area where it may catch or rub on clothing, cover with a clean dressing until healed. The treated area will form a scab. This should be left in place until it fades or falls off after 2 to 4 weeks.

Curettage and cautery of the skin will inevitably leave a scar. The type of scar will depend on the site and size of the lesion removed.

Crusting

The area should be kept strictly dry for the next 3 days. Never leave a wet dressing in place. Wash your hands and change it for a clean dressing. A wet dressing increases your risk of infection.

The pathology result

This is normally available 2 weeks after the sample has been taken. We will write to you with your pathology result. If you have not heard about any histology results within one month, please phone the surgery.

Complications

Although some weeping at the site is inevitable, this does not necessarily imply infection. If you experience persistent pain or weeping from the site after 2 days, you may need advice from your surgery.

The practice nurse or your GP will be able to assess your wound if you suspect infection. The signs of infection can be any of the following:

- . **increasing pain at the site**
- . **swelling**
- . **redness**

Your practice nurse is the first point of contact for any concerns.