

Skin Cancer and cosmetic medicine

MEDISKIN CLINIC

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MINOR SURGICAL PROCEDURES

Minor surgical procedures are commonly performed within Mediskin Clinic. These procedures include removal of skin cancers and suspicious moles; skin biopsies; removal of cysts and removal of ingrowing toenails. Mediskin Clinic is equipped with excellent facilities for performing these procedures. All equipment is sterilised with an autoclave in accordance with the Australian General Practice standards. This is the best way of protecting each patient against infections such as Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV.

THE PROCEDURE

For minor surgical procedures a local anaesthetic will be administered. This can be uncomfortable or painful but most patients tolerate it very well. The administration of the anaesthetic usually takes less than one minute. After this, you should not experience any pain. You may have some awareness that something is happening (eg. feeling some gentle pulling) but the experience should not cause any distress.

Often the excised specimen is sent for pathological diagnosis. Please contact the clinic a few days after the procedure to ensure that the diagnosis has been received and been seen by your doctor. If necessary, the doctor will discuss your results with you.

POST-OP CARE

Once the procedure is completed a dressing will be placed over the operation site. The dressing commonly used within the clinic is water resistant to allow showering. The dressing can be left intact until stitches are removed. It is important that the wound stays as dry as possible for a few days. If moisture seeps under the dressing or the wound bleeds and soaks the dressing in the first few days then it should be changed. After this time the dressing can be removed and left off if moisture gets under the dressing (but the wound should be dried off if it becomes wet). Avoid swimming pools or ocean swimming for the first week or so after the procedure.

It is normal to expect some pain in the wound for a day or two. This is generally easily controlled with panadol.

If you have sutures then the doctor will advise how long these need to stay in for. A further appointment will be made to have your sutures removed.

PATHOLOGY RESULTS

If a specimen is sent to pathology for diagnosis then the results will usually be available in 2 to 3 working days. If the result is abnormal and requires further treatment or discussion, Dr Wassall will contact you via telephone. If you are not contacted via telephone then the results will be discussed when you return for suture removal.

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS

The vast majority of patients who undergo minor procedures suffer no complications. However, even in the most skilled hands occasionally the following complications may occur:

- *Wound infection.* If your wound is becoming increasingly red, tender, hot or painful please contact the Clinic. If your wound is discharging pus then you will need to be seen by a doctor on the same day.
- *Wound breakdown.* Occasionally a wound will split after the sutures are removed. If this occurs please notify the Clinic as you will need to see a doctor on the same day. Sometimes the wound can be resutured.
- *Post operative bleeding.* It is normal to expect some blood ooze from the wound. If the bleeding does not stop after applying firm pressure for 10-15 minutes please contact the Clinic. If the dressing becomes soaked with blood it should be changed.
- *Scarring.* All wounds leave scars. The amount of scarring is usually related the healing qualities of the patient, the site of the procedure and the size of the wound.

If there are any concerns or questions please contact Dr Wassall. He is available to discuss concerns on the telephone. If necessary, a follow up consultation can be organised.