



## **SHAVE BIOPSY**

For the removal of superficial skin lesions such as skin tags and seborrheic keratosis.

## **PURPOSE**

The aim is to remove these skin lesions that are irritating or annoying but not medically worrying. We don't do cosmetic surgery and will refer to specialists if requested.

## **PROCESS**

The process is done under local anaesthetic just like at the dentist. We inject the anaesthetic around the piece we are removing. This can sting a little but it doesn't last long, and after that you should feel no pain but you will probably feel a little pressure. Please let us know if you have had a bad reaction to local anaesthetic in the past.

Once the area is numb the piece will be removed using a special shave - biopsy instrument. No stitches are required but we may use silver nitrate to cauterise any bleeding if it occurs. The wound will then be covered by a waterproof dressing to keep it clean and dry.

## **RISKS AND SIDE EFFECTS**

The wound is likely to be a little sore for a while once the anaesthetic wears off in a couple of hours. Paracetamol should be enough to control it.

The wound might bleed a little. If the blood soaks through the dressing put some pressure on it and return to see the nurse.

With any procedure there is always the possibility of infection. If the wound becomes more sore or red and weepy, please come back and see your nurse as it could be infected.

There is always the risk of scarring after a surgical removal and your nurse will discuss how to reduce this .

## **AFTER CARE**

Please keep the wound clean and dry for 48 hours. After that you can have a normal shower but please make sure the wound is well dried before you replace the dressing.

The wound forms a scab that should heal in 1-3 weeks.

## **COST**

The cost for having a single shave biopsy is from \$85.00 upwards, depending on the time required to do the procedure and materials used. For example:

Nurse time multiples of 15 minutes	<b>\$20.00-\$22.00</b>
Biopsy materials	<b>\$45.00</b>

Your GP or Nurse Practitioner will confirm the price with you before booking you for your procedure.