

Oral (mouth) biopsy Patient information

Maxillofacial Department

Southport Hospital
Town Lane,
Kew,
Southport,
Merseyside,
PR8 6PN
Telephone:
01704 547 471

Ormskirk Hospital
Dicconson Way,
Wigan Road,
Ormskirk,
Lancashire,
L39 2AZ
Telephone:
01695 577 111

**If you need this leaflet in a different language or accessible format
please speak to a member of staff who can arrange it for you.**

اگر به این بروشور به زبان دیگر یا در قالب دسترس پذیر نیاز دارید،
لطفاً با یکی از کارکنان صحبت کنید تا آن را برای شما تهیه کند.

Jeśli niniejsza ulotka ma być dostępna w innym języku lub formacie,
proszę skontaktować się z członkiem personelu, który ją dla Państwa przygotowuje.

Dacă aveți nevoie de această broșură într-o altă limbă sau într-un format accesibil,
vă rog să discutați cu un membru al personalului să se ocupe
de acest lucru pentru dumneavoastră

如果您需要本传单的其他语言版本或无障碍格式，请联系工作人员为您安排。

إذا احتجت إلى هذه النشرة بلغة أخرى، أو بتنسيق
يسهل الوصول إليه، يرجى التحدث إلى أحد الموظفين لترتيب ذلك لك.

Oral (mouth) biopsy

Notes

This leaflet is for patients who may need to have a biopsy to confirm a diagnosis. It explains why this procedure is required, what is involved and any risks or complications that there may be. If you have any other questions that the leaflet does not answer or would like a further explanation, please ask.

What is a biopsy?

An incisional biopsy is a procedure where a small piece of tissue is removed from an area, so that it can be looked at closely under a microscope to confirm its nature.

An excisional biopsy may aim to remove an area completely.

Why do I need treatment?

Your doctor or dentist will refer you if they would like a second opinion. A biopsy can be used to investigate abnormalities, or to remove small swellings or lumps.

What does the treatment involve?

It is necessary to make a small cut in the area that is required to be removed and biopsied. The piece of tissue that has been removed, will be sent to the pathology department for analysis. The biopsy will leave a small area that will require stitching.

In the majority of cases the stitches used are dissolvable and take around two weeks to disappear. The whole process, local anaesthetic injection, biopsy and stitching usually takes around 15 minutes from start to finish.

We allocate 15-30 minutes per patient for their appointment and we try to keep waiting times down to a minimum, however please take into consideration that circumstances occur out of our control which causes delays. We would therefore advise you to keep the morning or afternoon free for your appointment.

What type of anaesthetic is used?

Biopsies are carried out under local anaesthesia, an injection into the area to numb it. The injection takes a couple of minutes to work and means that the biopsy will be painless.

From time to time patients may experience a feeling of palpitations or their heart 'racing'. This is due to the adrenaline in the injection, however this feeling passes in a few moments.

What preparation do you need to do?

It is important to have a light meal up to 2 hours before your treatment. You can drink fluids and take any medicine as normal, unless you have been instructed otherwise.

Do not drink any alcohol.

You can drive yourself home if you feel safe to do so.

If you are particularly nervous, it is advisable to bring someone with you to drive you home or escort you on public transport.

What will happen when you arrive into hospital?

Once you have booked in at the reception desk, one of the nurses will introduce themselves and the team who will be treating you.

There will be 2 nurses and 1 oral surgeon with you during the procedure.

Before the procedure takes place, the surgeon will take an up to date medical history and a consent form will need to be signed in addition to the one you signed at your consultation appointment.

At the end of the procedure a post operative instruction pack will be given to you, to take home which will include direct numbers and emergency numbers.

Once the procedure has been completed, you will be free to go home as long as you feel well to do so.

For appointments

Telephone
(01695) 656 680

Email:

soh-tr.appointments@merseywestlancs.nhs.uk

Special instructions

If anything is required specific to your treatment it will be discussed with you on the day of your consultation.

Any condition specific danger signals to look out for:

Contact information if you are worried about your condition.

- Your own dental practitioner

Other useful telephone numbers and contacts:

NHS 111

Stop Smoking Helpline
(Sefton)

0300 100 1000

Stop Smoking Helpline
(West Lancashire)

0800 328 6297

What can I expect after the procedure?

You need to be careful not to bite the area whilst you are numb and avoid hot food and drink, until the anaesthetic has worn off. When the local anaesthetic wears off a few hours after surgery, there will be some discomfort.

Painkillers that do not contain aspirin, for example paracetamol and ibuprofen are helpful to reduce swelling and pain. If you are unable to take these due to medical reasons, please tell the surgeon who will be able to provide an alternative.

The discomfort is usually worse for the first few days, although it may take a couple of weeks to completely disappear.

Some swelling can occur, inside and or outside the mouth after surgery, this is usually most noticeable for about two days.

It may be difficult to clean your teeth around the surgical site, but it is important you brush gently and to keep the area free from food debris. By gently rinsing with warm salt water (dissolve a flat teaspoon of kitchen salt in a cup of warm water) 24 hours after your surgery, 3 times a day especially after food for 10-14 days.

What are the possible problems?

It is unusual for the area to bleed after surgery, but should this happen it can usually be stopped by applying pressure over the area for at least 10 minutes with a damp rolled up swab. If the bleeding does not stop, please contact the department or your own dentist.

Do I need to take any time off work?

This largely depends on your job and how you feel after the procedure. Most people are able to return to work later the same day.

Will I need another appointment?

Yes, you will be given an appointment to discuss the results of your procedure with a member of the maxillofacial unit team. If appropriate, further treatment will be discussed. Results are generally available in 6-8 weeks for routine cases, earlier for urgent cases.

Who to contact if you have any further questions or concerns

If you are worried or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the department and speak to one of the nursing team:

Maxillofacial Unit

Office:
01695 65 6966

Reception:
01695 65 6334

During your contact with us, it is important that you are happy with your care and treatment. Please speak to a member of staff in the department, or the sister if you have questions or concerns.

Matron

A matron is also available during the hours of 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. During these periods, the ward or department staff can contact the matron to arrange to meet with you.

Out of hours, a senior nurse can be contacted via the ward or department to deal with any concerns you may have.

Infection control request

Preventing infections is a crucial part of our patients' care. To ensure that our standards remain high our staff have regular infection prevention and control training and their practice is monitored in the workplace.

We ask patients and visitors to assist us in preventing infections, by cleaning their hands at regular intervals and informing staff of areas within the hospital that appear soiled.

As a patient there may be times that you are unsure whether a staff member has cleaned their hands. If in doubt please ask the staff member and they will be only too happy to put your mind at ease by cleaning their hands again, so that you can see them.