

Questions

If you have any other questions regarding your upcoming treatment that have not been answered by this leaflet, please ask the doctor when you next come in for an appointment.

Contact details

Oral and Maxillofacial Department
Lister Hospital
Coreys Mill Lane
Stevenage
Hertfordshire
SG1 4AB

Telephone: Lister Department, Stevenage ☎ 01438 284060
New QEII, Welwyn Garden City ☎ 01707 247575

Monday to Thursday, 8.30am - 5pm
and Friday, 8.30am - 1pm.

Out of these working hours please contact:
Luton and Dunstable Hospital out of hours service ☎ **01582 491166**
and **ask for the maxillofacial doctor on call.**

Reference: Information in this leaflet is taken from www.baoms.org.uk
British Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

www.enherts-tr.nhs.uk

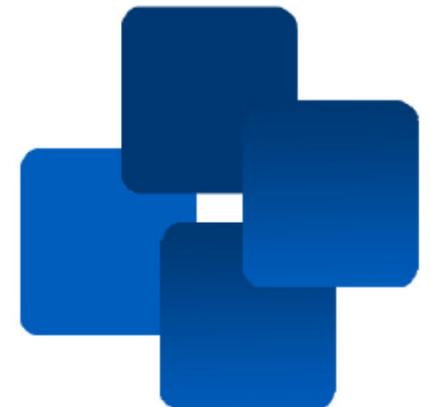
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Patient Information

Oral Biopsy

Oral and Maxillofacial Department



Introduction

The purpose of this leaflet is to help you to understand the biopsy procedure.

What is a biopsy?

A biopsy is a procedure where a small piece of tissue is removed from an area of your body so that it can be looked at under a microscope. The biopsy may aim to remove an area completely (an excisional biopsy) e.g. for small lumps or swellings, or a small piece of an area (incisional biopsy) to confirm a diagnosis.

How is it done?

In most cases 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. The biopsy usually leaves a small hole that requires stitching. The stitches are dissolvable and take a few weeks to dissolve. The whole process (local anaesthetic injection, biopsy and stitching) usually takes between 15 to 30 minutes from start to finish.

Is there much soreness or swelling afterwards?

When the local anaesthetic wears off after a few hours there is relatively little in the way of pain or swelling. Occasionally it is necessary to take simple painkillers such as paracetamol or ibuprofen. Usually discomfort only lasts a few days.

Generally, the discomfort felt is similar to a normal mouth ulcer or cheek/lip bite.

Will there be much bleeding?

Although there may be a little bleeding at the time of the biopsy, this usually stops very quickly and is unlikely to be a problem. Should the biopsy site bleed again when you get home, this can be stopped by applying pressure over the area for 10 minutes with a piece of gauze which will be given on the day of your biopsy. It is best that you are resting whilst applying the gauze in order to reduce your blood pressure. If the bleeding does not stop, please contact the department (telephone number is on the back page of this leaflet).

When can I return to work?

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

Are there any things I should do when I get home?

Be careful not to bite numb areas of your mouth. On the day of surgery you should avoid rinsing your mouth out vigorously as this may cause bleeding. You should clean your teeth normally, including those teeth next to the biopsy site. If you find that food catches around the stitches then the area can be gently rinsed with a mouthwash of warm salt water (dissolve one teaspoon of table salt in a cup of warm water) commencing on the day after surgery. Painkillers should be taken if required. Further instructions will be given to you on the day of your treatment.

Will I need another appointment?

The stitches are dissolvable, so a review appointment is not always necessary. You will only be given a review appointment if your results need to be discussed with you. However, if you are given a review appointment this is nothing to worry about. If you are not asked to book a review appointment your results will be forwarded to your GP.