

Plastic Surgery

Skin Biopsy

Introduction

We are reviewing patients who have been waiting a long time to help us prioritise those in most urgent need. Please be assured we are doing our utmost to ensure you and your families get the treatment you require as soon as possible. If you used the NHS e-Referral Service to book your appointment it will have given you an indicative appointment and treatment waiting time.

This document will provide you with information on how you can support yourself whilst waiting to attend the hospital. The guidance and advice has been reviewed and approved by clinicians responsible for your care.

Guidance for patients

If you no longer require your appointment please let us know as soon as possible as that will allow us time to offer an earlier appointment to another patient. If you do not have the phone number for the specialty you will be reviewed in but would like to cancel, change your appointment or speak to a staff member please call our switchboard number and they will be able to direct your call to the correct specialty.

Wye Valley Trust – 01432 355444

Further links which may help you manage your condition whilst you await treatment;

- <https://www.patientaccess.com/> (Connect to your GP services online)
- <https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/self-help/>
- <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/>

Skin Biopsy

A skin biopsy is a procedure to remove cells or skin samples from your body for laboratory examination. A clinician uses a skin biopsy to diagnose skin conditions to see if further treatment is needed.

What should I do if my health is deteriorating?

If the symptoms related to your skin lesion are worsening – please see below for details of what to do.

If you develop an acute infection (redness, discharge, pain) of your lesion, then please see your GP for advice on acute management of this. If your symptoms relating to the skin lesion are worsening (enlargement of lesion, bleeding) then please contact the Plastic Surgery department to speak to the medical secretary on 01432 378996.

My Planned Care Patient Information Platform

Life Threatening Emergencies

If you have severe bleeding, breathing difficulties or chest pains – please dial 999 immediately.

If your skin lesion rapidly changes while you are on the waiting list for surgery please contact your consultant's secretary through the switchboard.

Urgent Health Advice

For urgent health advice about physical or mental health, when it's not an emergency, please call 111 from any landline or mobile phone. You can also visit www.nhs.uk. The NHS 111 service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Contact us

Any email enquiries can be sent to our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS); pals@wvt.nhs.uk

If you feel that the hospital haven't been able to resolve your concerns after you have spoken to them about your waiting time, you can speak to our dedicated PALS team.
