

Maxillofacial Skin Surgery

Pre-operative Information

You have been given this leaflet as you have an area of skin on your head or face that requires removal. This leaflet has been designed to improve your understanding of your forthcoming skin procedure and to answer the common questions.

HOW WILL THE SURGERY BE PERFORMED?

Your skin operation will be performed whilst you are awake. Please eat and drink as normal before the appointment.

First, the area is numbed with local anaesthetic injections, which take a few minutes to work. The skin is then cleaned and marked. The procedure will take around 60-90 minutes.

The skin lesion will be cut out with a margin of healthy skin around the outside. The skin removed will therefore be bigger than the area that you can see. We do this to give the best chance of removing all of the lesion, as some of the cells can lie under the surface of the skin.

The hole will then be repaired in one of three ways:

- If the hole is small, the surrounding skin can be gently pulled together with stitches.
- If the hole cannot be brought together with stitches, then a 'flap' is used. This involves lifting skin from a nearby area and moving it round to fill the hole. The skin is stitched into place. Using a flap does leave a larger scar, but where possible the scar will be hidden in the natural skin creases.
- If a large area of skin is to be removed, it may be necessary to replace it with a piece of skin taken from another area, for example, your neck or abdomen. This is called a skin graft.

The method we are likely to use for your procedure will be discussed with you beforehand. The stitches we use may or may not dissolve on their own and your surgeon will tell how to take care of them. If they are the type that need to be removed, they will be removed 7-10 days after the operation.

WILL THERE BE A SCAR?

Any incision (cut) made into the skin will leave a scar. The length of scar will depend on how big your skin lesion is and where on the head or neck it is. Its appearance will fade over time. Initially, it will appear as a red line that can sometimes feel lumpy, this will fade to pale or whiten over time (this can take up to 18 months in total). We will advise you when it is appropriate to massage the area with facial oil or moisturiser. This can help to break down scar tissue leaving a smoother appearance. The scar and the area around it will feel numb afterwards. Usually the feeling in this area returns to normal but it can take 18 months. The skin will also feel tight after your procedure. This will improve on massaging the scar.

WILL THERE BE MUCH BRUISING OR BLEEDING?

This is a surgical procedure, and you are likely to bruise and may bleed post operatively.

**You will be more likely to bleed post operatively if you take blood-thinning medication:
Clopidogrel, Rivaroxaban, Apixaban, Aspirin and / or Warfarin.**

We may instruct you to stop the above medications prior to your procedure. We will let you know in advance once we know it is safe to do so. Please ensure the surgeon on the day informs you when these medications can be restarted after your surgery.

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT AFTERWARDS?

We will give you instructions on how to look after yourself after the procedure. You will want to sleep propped up on pillows to help with bruising and swelling. You can also expect the area to ooze and scab up. It is important to keep the area dry for 1 week following the surgery i.e., do not shower or bathe the area.

There will be some mild pain and discomfort once the numbness from the local anaesthetic wears off. Make sure that you have some Paracetamol and if you are able to take it, some Ibuprofen (unless you have been told you cannot take this). These are helpful for pain relief after the surgery. It can also be beneficial to take these an hour prior to your surgery. If you have any queries regarding taking medication, please consult with your GP.

Please do not do any exercise in the week after your surgery to prevent bleeding or infection. Infection is unlikely but it is a risk and although we rarely need to give antibiotics, you will need to see us if you are worried about the healing.

WILL I NEED FURTHER APPOINTMENTS?

We will check on the healing often 1-3 weeks after your surgery. You will likely have a dressing placed over the operation site, which we will change for you. Please do not leave the area or travel in the weeks following your procedure.

WHEN WILL I RECEIVE THE RESULTS?

Your results can take up to 8 weeks to come back.

WHO CAN I CONTACT IF I HAVE A QUERY / PROBLEM?

If you have a query, please contact our secretaries on the following numbers:

01784 884550 - Shirley Newman

01784 884632 - Caroline Dixon

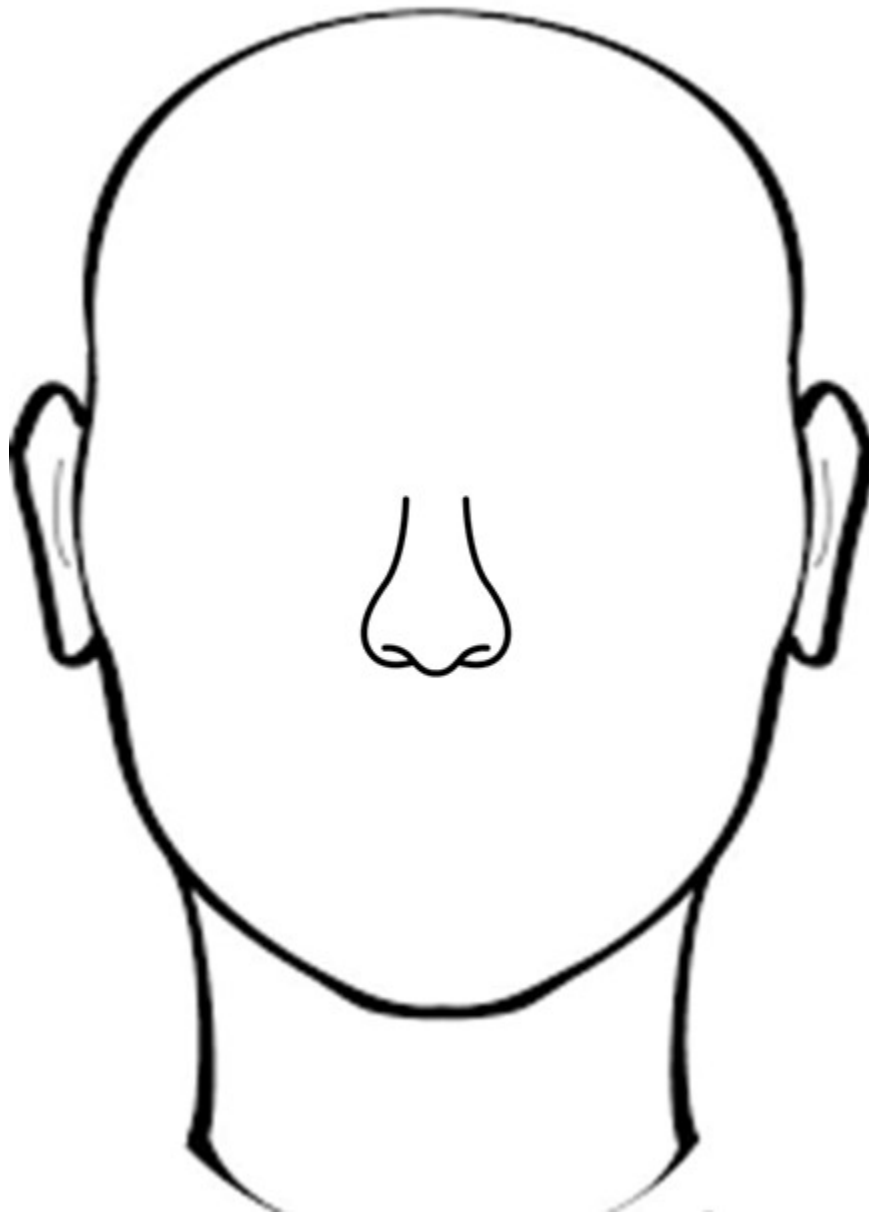
If you have a problem following your procedure, please contact the department on:

01932 722493 (St Peter's Hospital)

01784 884009 (Ashford Hospital)

After 17:00, phone the main hospital switchboard on **01932 872000** and ask for the **Oral & Maxillofacial Doctor on-call**.

For surgeons to use:



Further Information

We endeavour to provide an excellent service at all times, but should you have any concerns please, in the first instance, raise these with the Matron, Senior Nurse or Manager on duty. If they cannot resolve your concern, please contact our Patient Experience Team on 01932 723553 or email asp-tr.patient.advice@nhs.net. If you remain concerned, the team can also advise upon how to make a formal complaint.

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Department: Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery

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We can provide interpreters for a variety of languages, information in larger print or other formats (e.g. audio) - please call us on 01932 723553.



You can use Text Relay to turn telephone communications into text. Use the Relay UK app on your phone, tablet or PC. You can also use Relay UK via Minicom or Uniphone.

اگر نیاز به ترجمہ دارید، لطفاً با شماره 01932 723553 تماس بگیرید۔

আপনার অনুবাদের দরকার হলে এখানে যোগাযোগ করুন : 01932 723553

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਭਰਜਾਮੇ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਨੰਬਰ ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ: 01932 723553

यदि आपको अनुवाद की ज़रूरत है तो कृपया इस नंबर पर फोन करें: 01932 723553

اگر آپ اس کا اردو زبان میں ترجمہ چاہتے ہیں، تو براہ کرم اس فون نمبر 01932 723553 پر رابطہ کریں

Jeżeli chcemy, aby te informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić 01932 723553

Se precisa de uma tradução por favor contacte: 01932 723553

Ashford Hospital London Road, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 3AA Tel: **01784 884488**

St. Peter's Hospital Guildford Road, Chertsey, Surrey, KT16 0PZ Tel: **01932 872000**

Website: www.ashfordstpeters.nhs.uk