Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Biopsy Under Local Anaesthetic

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Patient Information

Maxillo Facial Department

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Why am I having a biopsy?

Your dentist or oral surgeon feels that there are changes to an area of tissue, and has recommended that a biopsy is carried out. This involves a simple procedure where a small piece of tissue is removed from an area. This can be looked at closely under a microscope.

There are two types of biopsies:

An **excisional biopsy** removes the whole area. This is usually carried out for small lumps or swellings.

An **incisional biopsy** involves removing a small piece of the abnormal area. This is carried out to confirm what something is.

What does my procedure entail?

You will be awake for the procedure, as you would be during a dental appointment. An injection will be given inside your mouth to numb the area. Once you are numb, you may feel some sensations of pressure. A few stitches will be placed to stop the bleeding, these dissolve after a few weeks, but can sometimes come out much sooner.

The procedure is generally painless and may take approximately 15 minutes.

Can I eat and drink before my procedure?

We recommend having something to eat and drink before your procedure so there is less risk of feeling faint.

Can I take medications as normal?

Generally yes, unless we tell you otherwise at your consultation appointment.

If you are taking Warfarin, we require an INR

within 24 hours before the procedure. If you haven’t had one, we can do this when you arrive for your appointment.

If you are unsure, please call us to check.

What can I expect afterwards?

The numbness wears off after a few hours. There may be some pain, so you may need to take simple painkillers (e.g. Paracetamol or Ibuprofen). Any discomfort should only last a few days.

You may experience some bleeding once the anaesthetic wears off and as the blood vessels open up; this should stop on applying pressure.

Post-operative instructions will be explained to you on the day including who to contact in case of problems.

What arrangements do I need to make for after my procedure?

Most people feel able to return to work the same day; however you may decide to take the rest of the day off particularly if your job involves talking or strenuous activity. It is recommended that you do not partake in sports or any activity that will increase your heart rate, as this can restart the bleeding. We would also ask that you do not consume alcohol or smoke for the 24 hours after the procedure.

Will I need any more appointments?

As the stitches are dissolvable, there is no need for an appointment to have them removed.

We will usually follow up your results, either by post for very simple biopsies, or we may send out another appointment if we want to check on your symptoms or explain results in more depth.It may take up to 8 weeks to receive results of the biopsy.

Should I be concerned?

It is natural to be apprehensive about undergoing any operation, even a small one like this. Many patients assume that biopsies are only ever taken when cancer is suspected, but this is not the case. Most samples are confirmed as benign (non-cancerous). If you are worried, please tell the surgeon straight away. They can help reassure you and answer questions you may have. They will fully explain the procedure to you.

I am still unsure about my treatment, who can I speak to?

Your oral surgeon will discuss the treatment with you on the day, and go through the consent form with you. If you need to ask any questions, they will be able to answer these for you. If you decide against treatment, they can discuss alternative options with you.

If you feel you need to discuss anything ahead of your treatment, please contact us on the telephone number below.

Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery telephone:

01942 822487

Acknowledgement

https://www.baos.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Biopsy-.pdf



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