

## **Stafford Skincare**

### **Mole, Cyst, Lipoma, Skin Tag and Wart Removal**

#### **Skin Surgery: What it involves**

Most appointments take about 30 – 45 minutes. During the consultation, the skin lesion is examined, and you will be advised of the different options for surgical removal depending on the diagnosis, the size, and where the lesion is. This includes the possibility of a scar, or the risk of the skin lesion returning after treatment. Once you are satisfied that you understand the procedure and the possible side effects – you will be asked to sign a consent form. Before the surgical procedure, you may be given a local anaesthetic injection to numb the area.

**Shave Biopsy** is one of the commonest surgical procedures. This is where a skin lesion is sliced off level with the skin, and any small bleeding points are gently cauterised. No stitches are necessary. This leaves a flat, pink, circular scar which gradually fades in colour over a few weeks. The majority of raised, flesh coloured or pale brown moles (Benign Intradermal Naevus), skin tags and warty lesions can be easily removed by Shave Biopsy.

**Cysts** are commonly found on scalp and back, sometimes on the face. They are removed by first making a small opening in the centre of the cyst. The cyst contents are squeezed out and the cyst wall is removed. The opening is closed with stitches. This leaves a small scar, 1 – 2cm long, in the shape of a line. A similar method is used to remove Lipomas.

**Diagnostic Biopsy** is a simple procedure where a small sample is taken from a rash, an unusual looking skin lesion or a suspected basal cell cancer. A small disc of skin, ranging in size from 4 – 8mm diameter is removed, and the area closed with stitches. The sample is sent for analysis. The cost of analysis depends on the number of histology tests needed to make a diagnosis. The cost of analysis is in addition to the procedure fees.

**Excision** is where a skin lesion is cut out completely, and the wound closed with stitches. This usually leaves a scar in the shape of a line, which fades gradually over several weeks or months. Flat, brown pigmented moles are usually removed by excision. National Guidelines recommend that this type of mole is sent for analysis. The cost of analysis is in addition to the procedure fees.

**Cautery** is a simple technique to treat small vascular lesions such as Spider Naevus, or to flatten Sebaceous Gland Hyperplasia.

**Cryotherapy**, or Freezing, can be used to treat Seborrhic warts, Viral warts and flat brown pigmented patches on the face and the back of the hands. This treatment does not need a local anaesthetic injection.

**After Surgery:** The scar will remain pink for about 4 – 8 weeks, then it slowly fades to skin colour, or sometimes, a whiter colour. There is always a scar. The degree of scarring depends on your age, the type of skin lesion, where the lesion is and whether there is any infection. Sometimes, the skin lesion may recur after surgery. This can happen after cyst, lipoma or benign intradermal naevus removal. You will be given an Information Leaflet about post-operative wound care which will explain what you should do to help the area to heal well.