

Stafford Skincare

Mole, Cyst, Skin Tag and Wart Removal

Skin Surgery for Simple Benign Skin lesions: What it involves

Simple Skin lesions, such as raised moles on the face and body, scalp cysts, warts and skin tags can be removed in the “See and Treat” Clinic at Lichfield.

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. 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.

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: There is always a scar after surgery. The degree of scarring depends on your age, the type of skin lesion, where the lesion is and whether there is any infection. For most people, the scar will remain pink for about 6 – 8 weeks, then it slowly fades to skin colour. Sometimes, the scar becomes a whiter colour than your normal skin tone.

There is a small risk that the skin lesion may recur after surgery. This can happen especially after cyst removal and occasionally after shave biopsy of a benign intradermal naevus (raised mole). 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.