**CRANLEIGH GARDENS**

**MEDICAL CENTRE**

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MINOR SURGERY

INFORMATION LEAFLET

Your Doctor may have asked you to book an appointment for a minor operation. Minor operations or minor surgery involve procedures that carry a low risk of complication that can be safely carried out in General Practice by a specially trained GP. This leaflet is designed to give you information to help plan for minor surgery.

**RISK FACTORS AND COMPLICATIONS**

Although the risks of minor surgery are extremely low, there are still some complications that you should be aware of before agreeing to proceed with any operation.

**Bleeding:** Most procedures done within General Practice are unlikely to result in significant bleeding. However, you should inform the Team if you are taking **Aspirin, Warfarin, Clopidogrel, Dipyridamol,** other **modern blood thinning drugs** or have a bleeding disorder. We ask you to continue these medications as this is important to your health. **If you are on Warfarin your INR needs to be checked a day or two before your operation and should be less than 3.0.** If it is not please inform us before the day of your surgery on 01278 411802. A device known as a Hyfricator is used to cauterise and further reduce the risk of bleeding.

**Please also inform us if you have a Pacemaker.** We are unable to do your operation at Cranleigh Gardens if you have a pacemaker as it may be affected by the cauterising machine.

**Scarring:** this is not always predictable as healing process differs between patients. In a few rare cases scarring can appear worse than the original lesion due to hypertrophic scars (the body making too much scar tissue)

**Allergy to local anaesthetic:** Some patients may have a potentially dangerous reaction to the injection given to numb the skin. You will be asked if you have ever had reactions in the past, for example, at the Dentist to numb the teeth. However, if you have never had a local anaesthetic, the surgery is equipped to deal with any reaction in the unlikely event that these occur.

**Infection:** the chance of infection after a minor operation is low. The procedure takes place in a clean room using single use equipment (it is only used for one procedure). However, as we all carry bugs on our skin, just as is the case with any cut or graze, sometimes a wound may become infected. Should this occur, you should contact the surgery to arrange to be reviewed by the Nurse. You may require antibiotic treatment. In the event of an infection, scars may be worse as wounds will not heal as quickly or effectively. Please inform us if you need treatment for an infection following your surgery with us.

**Damage to surrounding structures:** The doctor will take great care to only operate on the skin lesion concerned. However, it is possible during a procedure to damage surrounding structures such as arteries, veins or nerves. This outcome is very unlikely. Your doctor will discuss the specific risks associated with each procedure.

**Unexpected Histology Results:** Whenever any tissues are removed during a procedure, samples will be sent to the hospital for analysis under a microscope. The doctor will not undertake any procedure where a more sinister skin cancer is suspected as this must be dealt with by a specialist. However, on some occasions, results will come back from the hospital that were not expected. It is, therefore, very important that you make sure that you check to see that your results are back

3 weeks after the procedure. In the rare event of an abnormal result, your doctor will contact you at the earliest opportunity to discuss any further action that may be needed.

**HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR MINOR SURGERY**

On the day of your surgery please ensure that the area of skin is well cleaned and dried. Depending on the site of the skin lesion you should only need to remove enough clothing to expose the area affected. To preserve dignity, select clothing that will allow for this. Allow enough time for the procedure. Although most only 40-60 minutes, the doctor will ensure that each case is safely completed before moving on. Most patients are well enough to return to work on the same day, but you may need to consider some limitations depending on the procedure, e.g. avoid tennis, golf or swimming. It is particularly important to avoid bending your head down for the day following facial surgery to minimise the chance of bleeding.

If you do take **Warfarin**, your doctor will need to know an up-to-date **INR** result, which can be organised just prior to the date of the operation and should be less than 3.0.

If is preferable that you do not drive yourself home following surgery in case you feel unwell or have a bleeding complication that may distract you.

**Hair:** If you have surgery within the hair line or close to it we will try to avoid shaving any hair. You can wash your hair normally after bandage removal, the next day in most cases.

**SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS**

**Operations on the lower legs:** If you are having a minor operation on any part of the leg below the knee and you are over 55 years old, it would be sensible to have an assessment of the circulation in the legs beforehand. Poor circulation can delay wound healing and lead to the development of leg ulcers. This risk should be taken into account before proceeding. You will have a bandage from and including your foot to your knee. Please consider this when selecting shoes and clothes. This bandage will be applied for at least one week. Please arrange for somebody to drive you home.

**If you have any concerns please contact Dr Dillon’s Secretary on the telephone number provided in your appointment letter**

**01278 411802**