

Patient Information Leaflet

Information about an excision biopsy of the breast

Produced by:
The Clinical Nurse Specialists - Breast Care

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What is an excision biopsy?

An excision biopsy means the removal of some tissue for examination under the microscope. For this procedure you will have a general anaesthetic. The results take about a week to come back.

What happens?

You will have a general anaesthetic, which means you will be asleep for the operation. You may be in hospital for the day or overnight and will have a breast wound with some stitches in it.

Are there any risks?

It is normal to have bruising and discomfort after the procedure. Other rarer complications include infection, bleeding and a blood clot at the site of the wound.

Going Home:

- Please bring a comfortable bra with you for support whilst walking about after your operation.
- Keep the wound clean and dry.
- The ward staff will advise you when you can bath or shower.
- Dressings will be carried out by the district nurse / practice nurse if necessary.
- Most stitches are dissolvable but if not the district nurse / practice nurse will remove them.
- You may feel tired after anaesthetic so take things gently for a few days.

When to seek advice:

- If you have any concerns.
- If your wound becomes red and hot or painful.
- If the area swells and becomes uncomfortable.

If you have any concerns or would like more information, please contact:

The Breast Care Nurses Monday – Friday 8am – 4pm

Tel:01983-534562. At weekends and after hours please leave a message on the answer phone and we will get back to you as soon as we are able, if it is urgent phone NHS Direct on 08454647.

You can get further information on all sorts of health issues through NHS interactive available through Sky TV or online at: <http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk/>

For Health advice and out of hours GP service please call Island Health Line on 0845 6031007

We Value Your Views On Our Service

If you wish to comment on the care which you, your relative or friend has received, we will be pleased to hear from you. Please speak to the person in charge of the ward, clinic or service in the first instance or ask them to contact the Quality Team. If you wish to contact them directly, telephone on 534850.

Alternatively you may prefer to write to:

Chief Executive
Isle Of Wight NHS Trust
St Mary's Hospital
Newport
Isle of Wight
PO30 5TG

You can also share any concerns you have about our services with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) on 03000 61 61 61 or at enquires@cqc.org.uk

All NHS sites are no smoking areas.

If you would like help and advice to stop smoking please call: 01983 550386 to talk to Island Quitters.

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