

Information for patients and carers

Removal of Benign Periocular Skin Lesions



Introduction

This leaflet provides information and advice for patients and their carers, partners or family on the removal of Benign Periocular Skin Lesions.

These are lumps, sores, raised patches or nodules around the skin of the eyelid or around the eye and may be found anywhere on the eyelid margins, corners of the eye, eyebrow skin, or nearby areas of the face. Periocular lesions are very common and have a variety of causes, ranging from harmless (benign) cysts to cancerous (malignant) cells.

Removing skin lesions around the eyes

Skin lesions near the eyes may be removed for two main reasons:

- **To improve eye function:** Lesions can affect eyelid movement, cause irritation, or block vision. Removal can help restore comfort and normal function
- **For diagnostic reasons:** some lesions are removed for laboratory testing under a microscope (biopsy). This is often done when a lesion appears to be abnormal, changes in size or colour or does not heal. The goal is to rule out conditions such as skin cancer which can occur in the delicate skin around the eyes due to sun exposure and other factors

Biopsy results help guide any further treatment that may be needed.

The surgeon may remove the whole lesion (excision biopsy), or a small sample may be taken initially for testing (incision biopsy).

Minor operations and theatre procedures

Benign periocular skin lesions may be removed either in a **Minor Operations Outpatient Clinic** or in a **hospital theatre setting**, depending on the size, location, and complexity of the lesion.

Minor Operations Clinic

Clinic procedures are performed in a minor operations treatment room. The area around the lesion is numbed with an injection of local anaesthetic. Common procedures include:

- **Shave excision** – Raised lesions are shaved off the skin surface
- **Punch biopsy** – A small circular sample of skin is taken for diagnosis
- **Curettage and cautery** – Lesions are scraped off, and the area is sealed with heat
- **Simple excision** – The lesion is cut out with a margin of healthy skin and stitched

Theatre procedures

For more complex cases, surgery may be performed in theatre. This may involve **general anaesthetic** or **intravenous sedation**, and more extensive wound repair techniques such as skin flaps or grafts.

Aftercare

You may go home with a dressing over the wound and will be given some antibiotic ointment. Instructions for wound care will be given when you are discharged.

If you have stitches, you may need a follow-up appointment a week later to have them removed. Most wounds heal within 1–2 weeks.

What are the benefits and risks of surgery?

All surgery carries benefits and risks. It is important that you consider both before deciding to proceed.

Benefits include:

- Protecting eye function and appearance
- Lowering the risk of recurrence

Risks include:

- Bleeding, bruising and swelling to the eyelids. This usually improves within 1-2 weeks.
- Infection
- Scarring, dependent on the extent of tissue removed
- Uneven eyelid contour, position or height
- Impaired blink
- Numbness
- Dry eye or watery eye

- Recurrence of the lesion
- Need for revision surgery
- Damage to the eyeball, nerves in the eye and other surrounding structures in the eye, although this is very rare (<0.1%)

Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please contact

Lancashire Eye Centre Oculoplastic secretaries:

01257 245058 or **01772 521392**

If you have an urgent, sight-threatening problem, please telephone our nurse triage line between 09:00-16:30 on **01257 245346**. **Outside of these hours, please attend the hospital emergency department.**

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.accessable.co.uk

www.patient.co.uk

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/veteran-aware

www.bopss.co.uk

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www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

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This information can be made available in large print, audio, Braille and in other languages.**

Our patient information group review our leaflets regularly, if you feel you would like to feedback on this information or join our reading group please contact on email address:

patientexperienceandinvolve@LTHTR.nhs.uk

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