

Curettage & Cautery

Nurses: _____

Dr.: _____

Date: _____

PRACTICE NURSE INFORMATION

This patient has received treatment to remove a skin lesion by scraping off the surface layers (curettage) and burning the base to stop bleeding (cautery). This wound will normally heal in 2-3 weeks. It may ooze and bleed during this time like a graze.

PATIENT INFORMATION

► Dressing off in 24 / 48 hours then apply Vaseline

GENERAL WOUND ADVICE

- **EXERCISE**

Rest after your operation for 24 hours unless instructed otherwise. Avoid activities like shopping, cycling, and dog walking. Keep your dressing in place and keep the wound dry during this time.

- **WOUND CARE**

The wound following curettage is similar to a deep graze. You may need to clean the wound using warm water and cotton ear buds. Do not pick off any scab as this may increase the risk of scar formation. Apply Vaseline to keep the wound moist. This may be repeated three to four times daily to help produce the best cosmetic result.

- **PAIN**

Take Paracetamol if your wound is painful. If this fails to ease the pain, try taking some Brufen (Ibuprofen). Avoid Aspirin as this can increase the risk of bleeding.

- **BLEEDING**

It is normal to expect some oozing of blood from the wound. If bleeding occurs, apply constant pressure for 15 minutes. It should eventually stop. It is also extremely important that you rest as this will help to keep your blood pressure down.

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- **INFECTION**

Open wounds produced by curettage may develop a yellow base, which is the natural healing process. Wound infection is uncommon and does not normally require any treatment. Rarely, redness may develop around the wound and this may produce pain. If this occurs, you may need to see your practice nurse or GP to check that it is not infected.

- **SCARRING**

Most wounds treated by curettage will produce few permanent problems apart from loss of colour of the surface of the skin (hypopigmentation). Occasionally, it may be necessary to produce a scar to adequately treat a skin lesion to prevent it from coming back. This will be seen as a small depression in the skin. This is more common for skin lesions treated on the lower leg and for treatment that is necessary for sun-damaged skin. You should expect a scar in curettage has been used to treat a skin cancer. Rarely, a raised scar may develop (keloid scar) and increased pigmentation may also be seen at the treatment site.