

## **Biopsy of Oral Cavity** **(Mouth)**

### **Discharge Advice**

#### **Biopsy of Oral Cavity (Mouth):**

The biopsy involves an area of abnormal appearing tissue being taken from inside the mouth. It will then be sent to the laboratory for analysis in order to obtain a diagnosis. Should the area of abnormal tissue be small, an excision biopsy may be performed (complete removal of the abnormal area).

In most cases, the biopsy is done under local anaesthetic (an injection to numb the area). Sometimes a general anaesthetic is required particularly in children or when the abnormality is at the back of the mouth.

If you have had a general anaesthetic, you should have a light diet and avoid fizzy drinks on the day after surgery to prevent sickness. You should go straight home from the hospital and rest for at least 24 hours.

#### **Bleeding:**

There is usually a minimal amount of bleeding at the time of surgery and this usually settles within a short period of time. Should the biopsy site start to bleed following your discharge, you should apply pressure to the area using piece of gauze/cloth for 10 minutes. In the event that the bleeding continues, please contact the department on one of the telephone numbers provided.

#### **Oral Hygiene:**

You should clean your teeth as normal. Should food get caught in your sutures, you can wash it away with a dental mouthwash (available from your local chemist/supermarket) or salty water.

#### **Recovery time:**

Pain and discomfort tends to be mild and usually improves within a few days. You will be given specific advice on pain relief prior to discharge by your nurse. Usually simple painkillers such as paracetamol and ibuprofen are effective.

If you have had the procedure under local anaesthetic, you can return to work/school the next day. After a general anaesthetic, 48 hours off work/school is recommended

**Follow up:**

Your surgeon will advise prior to your discharge from hospital whether or not a follow up outpatient appointment is required. It may be the case that the surgeon will write to you with your biopsy results (usually available 2-3 weeks post-surgery). Should you be told that you require a follow up for results but not receive an appointment, please call the outpatient booking office on 01495 765055.

**EMERGENCY DISCHARGE INFORMATION**

**09:00 to 17:00 Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays):** Contact the Day Surgery Unit on 01633 234199 / 01633 234196 or the ENT Treatment room on 01633 234018

**After 17:00/overnight (adults):** Ward C0 on 01633 493926.

**After 17:00/overnight (children):** Ward C1 on 01633 493609.

**In the event of an emergency, attend your closest Accident & Emergency department**

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