



Skin Excision Information Sheet

A skin excision is a simple, safe and effective way of removing skin cancers, cysts, or other growths. Under local anesthesia, a margin of skin is incised around the lesion. In order to facilitate the repair, it is usually made in the shape of a football, so after sutures are placed, the scar can be in the shape of a line. The skin sample, containing the lesion of concern is then sent to a pathologist to ensure it has been removed completely. Many doctors perform biopsies of suspicious spots and will then refer to a surgical dermatologist for surgical removal.

Days prior to surgery:

If you prefer to have a pre-operative consultation we are very happy to arrange for that. If you prefer to bypass this consultation, and only have one appointment, that is fine as well. For the procedure appointment, plan on being on-site for about an hour. Before your procedure we will discuss:

- the type and size of your tumor.
- any possible alternative options for treatment.
- your current medications and surgical risk (patients continue any blood-thinners).
- the procedure and aftercare in detail.

It is important to be able to identify the exact site of your biopsy. Because the tumor can change in size and shape after a biopsy, I recommend that you take a picture of the biopsy site at the time you and your physician select skin excision as the treatment option (selfies are fine!)

The Day of Surgery and Aftercare

The sutured skin is fragile after a skin excision. You should expect to relax the rest of the day and not subject the wound to any activity for a couple of weeks. This will help ensure you obtain the best possible surgical and cosmetic outcome. No working out, heavy lifting, running, stretching, golf, swimming— basically anything that will subject the wound to tension or excessive movement; walking, desk work, and basic life activities are fine. Please consider this when you make your appointment, you may wish to avoid scheduling around important events (vacations, golf tournaments, skiing, etc.)

- You will be given specific wound care instructions. These will all be written down as well.
- You will be given the necessary bandaging supplies to take care of your surgical site.
- In most cases dissolvable sutures will be used, and there will be no required follow up visit.
- After hours emergency coverage is available.

If you have any additional questions, please call my office prior to your appointment.

Thank you for putting your trust in me. I look forward to meeting and taking care of you!

Dr. Ken Galeckas, MD, FAAD