



Post-Operative Instructions Following Skin Surgery in the Maxillofacial Department at Solihull Hospital

Pain

- There will be no pain immediately after surgery due to the local anaesthetic used. It usually takes 3-4 hours to regain normal sensation.
- After the effects of the local anaesthetic have worn off, you may experience some mild pain and discomfort – this is normal. If you are unable to manage this then simple painkillers may help.

Bruising & Swelling

- It is very likely you will experience bruising & some swelling around the area, this usually tends to get worse 2-3 days following surgery and then gradually starts to get better. Within 2 weeks you should notice most bruising has disappeared.

AFTERCARE

- Keep the area COMPLETELY dry for 48 hours.
- After 48 hours you will still need to try and keep the area as dry as possible, if the wound does get slightly damp pat gently with a clean paper towel, do not rub.
- Do not immerse the wound fully under water for at least 2 weeks – avoid swimming. You may undertake other forms of light exercise after 1 week.
- The consultant may prescribe you an antibiotic cream called chloramphenicol. The tube may say 'eye ointment' do not be alarmed by this. This will need to be applied to the affected area 3x daily (please ensure you have clean hands if applying with your fingers). You should do this for 7 days following surgery.
- We use two kinds of stitches: Ones that dissolve on their own and ones that will need to be removed. We will advise you on which have been used after the procedure.
- If we have used stitches that do not dissolve on their own (we will advise you of this at your appointment) then these will need to be removed 1 week after surgery; please do not leave them any longer than this. You will need to arrange to have these removed with your GP practice, usually the practice nurse.
- Please limit sun exposure to the wound whilst it's in the healing process - wear a hat and SPF50 sun protection if outdoors.

Any issues

If you have any issues post-operatively within working hours, in the first instance you should contact the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery & Orthodontics Department at Solihull Hospital at 0121 424 5307 or 0121 424 4290. Out of hours you should call switchboard at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham on 0121 627 2000 and ask to speak to the “on call Maxillofacial SHO” on bleep 2239.