

Dermatology Surgical and Laser Unit (C4)

# Skin surgery, local anaesthetic, appointments and procedures

Information for  
patients



This leaflet has been designed to help you prepare for skin surgery procedures by answering a few commonly asked questions.

### **What will happen?**

The doctor / theatre nurse will describe the procedure fully and answer your questions in the privacy of the theatre. You will be asked to sign the consent form, once you have been fully informed of the risks and benefits of the procedure, and wish to continue.

### **Why is the procedure needed?**

In order to diagnose your skin condition so that the doctor can offer you the best treatment and / or remove a skin lesion.

### **Do I need to fast (not eat)?**

You can eat normally. All procedures are done following an injection of local anaesthetic. If you have reacted to a local anaesthetic before it is important to inform the doctor. The injection will sting but the skin quickly becomes numb. Following the injection, you do not feel pain but you will feel touch and pressure. The doctor / theatre nurse will ensure that the anaesthetic has been effective before continuing. You will be awake throughout the procedure.

## **I regularly take aspirin or warfarin (or other medication such as Clopidogrel or Apixaban) to thin my blood. Should I tell the doctor?**

Yes. It is essential to know when you take tablets that may make you bleed more than normal.

### **Warfarin**

If you take warfarin, you should be given separate information regarding having your blood checked, 3 days prior to the procedure.

### **Care after procedure**

A dressing is normally applied to the biopsy site and this should be left on for at least 48 hours. The doctor / theatre nurse will inform you and your General Practitioner details of the results. The nurse will advise you regarding removal of the stitches if used. They will also advise on wound care and post-operative pain control, and give you a wound care leaflet.

Please be aware that it may not be possible for you to drive home after your appointment. We therefore advise that you make alternative arrangements for travel on the day of your procedure.

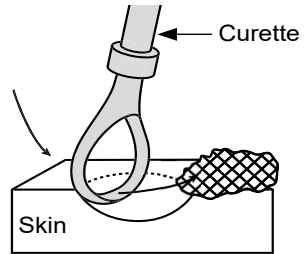
### **Your results**

**A member of the team will inform you of your procedure results either by letter, phone call or by appointment to attend clinic. Please be aware that this may take between 6 - 8 weeks.**

**Common diagnostic test and procedures include the following:**

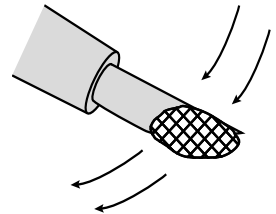
**Curettage**

An instrument called a curette is used to scrape away the lesion, this leaves a cut surface, like a graze.



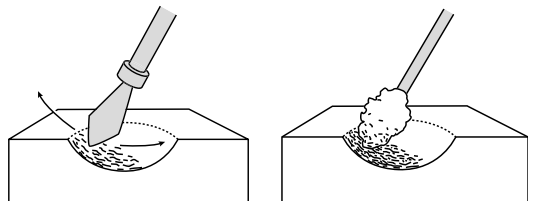
**Shave biopsy**

The skin around and under the lesion is injected with local anaesthetic, this will raise and firm the skin. A sharp scalpel blade is used to precisely remove or take a diagnostic sample from the lesion, leaving a shallow cut surface.



Following either 'curettage' or 'shave', an electro-surgical device or chemical is used to stop the bleeding. You may see a dark area of burnt skin. This will flake away naturally as the skin heals. Both of the above procedures may cause scarring, there is a risk of bleeding.

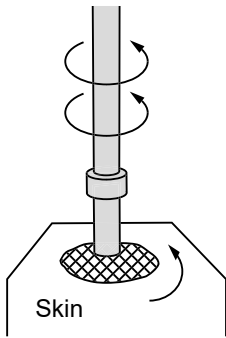
Either an electro-surgical device or a cotton bud that has been dipped into a chemical is used to stop bleeding.



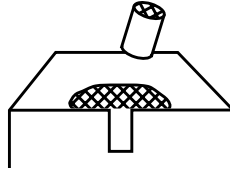
## Punch biopsy

A punch biopsy blade is used to take a small round core of tissue ranging from 2mm - 7mm in diameter. 4 mm is the more usual size. This allows the pathologist to investigate a full thickness view of the skin. The wound may be closed with a stitch, there is a risk of bleeding and infection. A scar may be seen following the procedure.

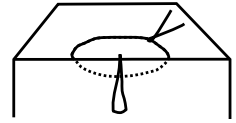
1. The punch biopsy blade is rotated downwards



2. A small round tissue sample is removed

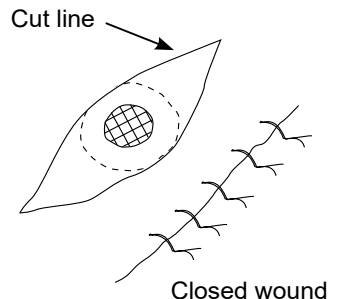


3. A stitch may be used to close the wound



## Elliptical excision

An ellipse shape is cut around the lesion and it is cut away in a way that enables a flush closure without puckering. Often, the resulting scar is a line. In younger patients, because of natural 'tug' of the elastic skin, the scar may be more noticeable - a stretched scar. Some people can develop a thicker scar called a keloid scar. This is a slight risk but one that is impossible to predict. There is a small risk of bleeding or infection. There are different ways of closing the wound if external stitches are used, they will be often removed in 5 - 14 days.



## **The Dermatology Department is open:**

**Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm (except Bank Holidays)**

- An appointment system operates.
- An appointment will be booked for a time convenient to you.
- Please allow between 30 - 60 minutes for the procedure.
- Allow two hours for parking.

## **For further information: Pre or post-procedure**

Telephone: **(0113) 392 4292**

**Pre or post-procedure between 9.00 am - 5.00 pm**

## **For appointment queries:**

Telephone: **0113 392 4468**

Or email: **leedsth-tr.cahminoroperations@nhs.net**

**Pre or post-procedure between 9.00 am - 5.00 pm**

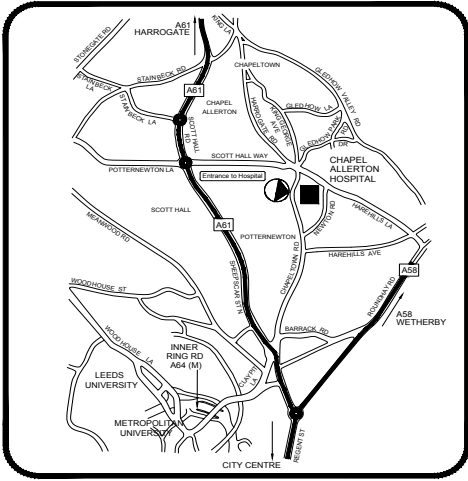
## **Transport**

Buses services from Leeds City Centre to Chapel Allerton Hospital are: 2, 3, 3A and 48, and run frequently.

## **Parking**

There is a 'Pay and Display' car park at Chapel Allerton Hospital.

# Chapel Allerton map



## USEFUL INFORMATION

Chapel Allerton Switchboard ☎ 0113 2623404  
 Bus Timetable Information ☎ 0113 2457676

## FIND US AT:

<http://www.leedsth.nhs.uk/chapel-allerton-hospital>

## PARKING INFORMATION

Pay & Display machines take 10p 20p 50p £1 coins only  
 (No change machines on site)  
 Credit cards accepted (min £5)

## PUBLIC TOILETS

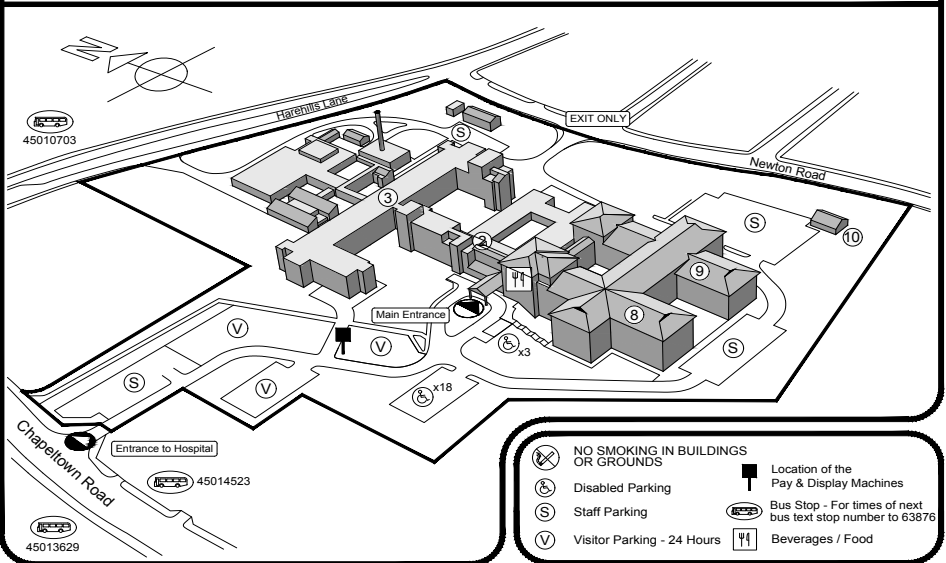
Public Toilets & Disabled Toilets are situated in the Main Reception Area

## BEVERAGE & FOOD FACILITIES

Food & beverages are available from the Coffee Shop.  
 08:00 - 16:00 hours, Monday to Friday  
 Vending machines are available in the Main Reception  
 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

## KEY TO WARDS & DEPARTMENTS

- |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <b>2</b> MAIN RECEPTION<br>CAFE & SHOP<br>CHAPEL<br>DERMATOLOGY<br>PUBLIC & DISABLED TOILETS | <b>3</b> WARD C4 (DERMATOLOGY SURGICAL / LASER)<br>WARD C5<br>WARD C6<br>LEEDS MUSCULOSKELETAL<br>BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH UNIT (LMBRU) | <b>8</b> WARDS C1 & C2<br>WARDS C3<br>PHARMACY<br>X-RAY, ULTRASOUND & MRI | <b>9</b> OUTPATIENTS<br>THERAPY SERVICES<br>PHLEBOTOMY |
|  |  |   | <b>10</b> JEWISH MORTUARY                              |



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*Your views matter*

Click the QR code



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