

Acute Abscess Pathway

Information for patients



You have been seen by the hospital doctor and diagnosed with an abscess. This requires you to have a day case operation under a general anaesthetic to drain the infection.

What happens next?

After your diagnosis you will be sent home with painkillers. The following day you will return to the St James's Admissions Lounge (JAL) at 07:00am where you will be prepared for your surgery that day.

Your operation will be planned to be done early morning on an operating list reserved for patients with an emergency condition. However, if there is a patient who needs an operation urgently for a life-threatening condition, your operation may be delayed. If this happens, we will keep you updated and do our best to perform your operation later in the day.

Day of your operation

On the day of your operation please come to the **St James's Admissions Lounge** which is situated on the second floor of Lincoln Wing, **no later than 07:00am**.

You can take the stairs or lift up to the second floor. If you come up the stairs, turn right at the top and the admissions lounge is straight ahead. If you use the lift, turn right out of the lift, follow the ramp and turn left at the top of the corridor.



If you have any questions before coming to the hospital, please telephone the **Admissions Lounge** on:

(0113) 206 9152 or **(0113) 206 7183**.

Pre admission advice

- Do not eat anything from 02:00am (this includes sweets, mints or chewing gum).
- Please drink 250mls clear water at 06:00am on the day of surgery.
- If you are a smoker, we strongly recommend that you do not smoke at all on the day before and the morning of your planned operation, and for 48 hours after your procedure.
- Please bring to hospital any medications that you would routinely take.
- Please do not bring any sentimental valuables or large amounts of money with you.
- Please ensure you do not have any make up, acrylics or nail varnish on.
- Contact lenses should not be worn on the day of surgery.
- If you have any questions or concerns about any of the above, please telephone the ward or speak to your delegated nurse for that day.

Care after general anaesthetic

After any general anaesthetic your thinking and co-ordination will be temporarily affected due to the drugs given in your anaesthetic. For your own safety it is important to follow these instructions:

- Do not drive yourself home after your operation. You should not drive for 48 hours after your operation.
- Do not drink any alcohol.
- You must not operate any machinery or appliances.
- Please do not sign any legal documents or make any vital decisions after your operation.

Going home

When you are ready to go home it is important that a responsible adult takes you home and stays with you for 24 hours after your operation. Please let us know in advance if this isn't possible as you will need to stay in hospital overnight after your operation.

You will receive dressings and a referral letter to give to your GP surgery for your practice nurse. You must make an appointment to visit them the day after your surgery to have your dressings changed. Your practice nurse will then decide when your wound will need further dressing changes.

When you leave hospital we will give you painkillers to take at home - follow the instructions given to you by the nurse. It is important that you are comfortable to make it easier for you to mobilise throughout your recovery.

Depending on the nature of your job you may be able to resume work two weeks after your operation.

Most drivers find that they are comfortable driving after 10 days following surgery. If you are not comfortable with your wound being under pressure you should avoid driving until your wound is healed and you feel comfortable to drive safely.

If you have any problems after you have left hospital

Within 24 hours of your operation:

please phone: **(0113) 243 3144** and ask switchboard to put you through to the **Surgical Assessment Unit**.

More than 24 hours after your operation:

please contact **your own GP surgery**.

Contact details

St James's Admissions Lounge:

0113 206 9152 or **0113 206 7183**

(between 07:00am - 08:00pm)

Surgical Assessment Unit:

0113 206 4888 or **0113 206 5768**



What did you think of your care?

Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/nhsleedsfft

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