

NOTES Use the space below to write questions

Contact Details

**Oral and Maxillofacial Department
County Hospital**

Nurse's Base Tel: 01785 230577

Monday to Friday 9.00 am to 4.00 pm

Stoke Hospital

Nurse's Base Tel: 01782 674801

Medical Secretary Tel: switchboard 01782 715444

Patient Information Leaflet

Post operative biopsy



Please speak to a member of staff if you need this leaflet in large print, braille, audio or another language

Introduction

This leaflet will explain the biopsy procedures and what to expect. If after reading the leaflet you have any questions, please speak to a member of the team.

Procedure

The biopsy area can be inside the mouth or outside of the mouth on the skin. The area will be made numb and lasts up to 4 hours after the procedure so avoid biting your lip/tongue during this time.

- Do not smoke for 48 hours after the procedure.
- Do not drink alcohol for 48 hours.
- Do not do any strenuous exercise as it may cause renewed bleeding.

The internal stitches (sutures) used are dissolvable and will come away on their own up to 6 weeks.

After the procedure (inside the mouth)

- 24hours after the procedure, dissolve a teaspoon of salt in a glass or tumbler of warm water. Repeat this after every meal. This will keep the area clean.
- Brush your teeth as normal but be careful of the biopsy area.
- Eat soft food to start with and return to eating a normal diet once you feel able to do so.

After the procedure for all Procedures

Bleeding. If bleeding occurs, apply firm pressure to the biopsy area for at least 30 minutes using a clean handkerchief or gauze. If bleeding persists, contact the department or attend A&E outside of our working hours.

Pain. Pain relief such as paracetamol or ibuprofen can be used to help manage any pain. This will gradually improve over 7-10 days.

If you have an increase in pain after a few days, this may indicate an infection so please seek advice from the department.

Swelling and Bruising. This is common after surgery and after 2-3 days will start to reduce and resolve by 7-10 days. Bruising can occur to the face and this can take up to 2 weeks to resolve.

Follow up

A telephone follow up appointment may be arranged for you or you may receive a letter from your clinician with the results. A face to face appointment may be arranged if the healing site needs to be reviewed.

Results

Please ring the department on the number provided on the back of the leaflet 24 hours before your appointment to make sure that your results have been received.