

Patient Information Leaflet

Labial Gland Biopsy

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



Introduction

This leaflet provides you with information on a labial gland biopsy and what to expect during your treatment. If after reading the leaflet you have any questions, please speak to one of the team.

What is a Labial Gland Biopsy?

This is a diagnostic procedure used to diagnose conditions which include:

- 'Sjögren's Syndrome' (especially anti-Ro antibody negative patients)
- Chronic dry mouth (xerostomia) or dry eye
- Suspicious masses or lesions in the salivary glands
- Other autoimmune or connective tissue diseases.

A small sample of the minor salivary glands is taken from inside of the lower lip for examination.

Anatomy of the Labial Glands

The labial glands are minor salivary glands located inside the lower lip. Though they are small and less known than the major salivary glands, they are crucial for overall health and function of the mouth.

They are scattered beneath the mucous membrane and play a role in producing saliva to keep the mouth moist.

Reason for procedure

Your doctor may have recommended you for this procedure if you are exhibiting symptoms such as:

- Dry eyes or dry mouth.
- If certain blood tests or imaging tests suggest an autoimmune disorder.

During the procedure

- Local anesthesia is applied to numb the area inside the lower lip.
- The biopsy site is cleaned with an antiseptic solution.
- A small incision is made in the mucosa (lining) of the inner lower lip.
- A few of the labial glands are removed using forceps or a small punch tool.
- The incision is then closed with sutures, typically dissolvable.
- The procedure usually takes 10 to 15 minutes.

Risks of procedure

Although labial gland biopsy is generally safe, there can be some potential risks which are temporary which include:

- Pain or discomfort at the biopsy site.
- Swelling or bruising of the lip.
- Bleeding from the incision.
- Infection at the biopsy site.
- Whilst rare, there can be numbness or loss of sensation in the lower lip.
- Scarring or poor wound healing is also rare.

Going home

- Please keep the area clean by gently rinsing your mouth with a mild saline solution or antiseptic mouthwash. This will ensure good oral hygiene and will aid recovery.
- Pain can be managed with painkillers such as ibuprofen or paracetamol.

- To avoid irritating the biopsy site, please stick to soft food during the first few days and avoid spicy, hot, or acidic foods.

Follow up

A follow up appointment as instructed by your healthcare provider to discuss result and next steps.

When to Seek Medical Attention

Contact your healthcare provider if you experience:

- Persistent or severe pain.
- Excessive bleeding.
- Signs of infection (redness, warmth, pus).
- Fever.

Contact Details

If you have any questions concerning your vision, please speak to your Optician/ Orthoptist or speak to a member of the healthcare team.

Oral and Maxillo-Facial Department County Hospital

Nurse's Office Tel: 01785 230577
Medical Secretary Tel: 01785 230565

Royal Stoke Hospital

Nurse's Office Tel: 01782 674801
Medical Secretary Tel: 01782 674186/674187/ 674188

Rheumatology Department Haywood Hospital

Helpline – 01782 673687
Kelly – 01782 673981

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