

Oral (Mouth) Biopsy Information Leaflet

LAST MODIFIED - 05/05/2024

This leaflet aims to enhance your understanding of the upcoming treatment and addresses many common questions. If you have any additional questions or need further clarification, please do not hesitate to ask.

What is a biopsy?

A biopsy involves removing a small piece of tissue from an area for close examination under a microscope. The biopsy may aim to remove an area completely (excision biopsy), which is usually suitable for small lumps or swellings. Sometimes, only a small portion of an abnormal area is removed to confirm a diagnosis (incisional biopsy).

How is it done?

Biopsies are typically performed under local anaesthesia (an injection to numb the area). The injection takes a few minutes to take effect, ensuring the biopsy is painless. The procedure usually leaves a small hole that often requires stitching. In most cases, dissolvable stitches are used, which take about two weeks to disappear. The entire process (local anaesthetic injection, biopsy, and stitching) usually takes around 15 minutes.

Is there much soreness or swelling afterwards?

After the local anaesthetic wears off in a few hours, there is usually minimal pain or swelling. Occasionally, simple painkillers (e.g., Paracetamol, Nurofen) may be needed. Any discomfort typically lasts only a few days.

Will there be much bleeding?

There may be slight bleeding at the time of the biopsy, which usually stops quickly and is not a problem if the wound is stitched. If the biopsy site bleeds again at home, apply pressure over the area for at least 10 minutes with a rolled-up handkerchief or swab. If the bleeding does not stop, please contact the department.

When can I return to work?

This depends largely on your job and how you feel after the procedure. Most people can return to work later the same day.

Are there any precautions I should take at home?

Be careful not to bite numb areas of your mouth. On the day of surgery, avoid rinsing your mouth vigorously as this may cause bleeding. Clean your teeth normally, including those next to the biopsy site. If food catches around the stitches, gently rinse the area with a mouthwash

Vahé Cooper

t: 07999 379179

e: info@consultantoralsurgeon.com

 ConsultantOralSurgeon

or warm salt water (dissolve a teaspoon of kitchen salt in a cup of warm water) starting the day after surgery.

Will I need another appointment?

Since the stitches are dissolvable, a review appointment is not always necessary. However, you will usually be given one to discuss the biopsy results.

Vahé Cooper

t: 07999 379179

e: info@consultantoralsurgeon.com