

What are the benefits of the procedure?

You will benefit from the procedure in as much as the piece of tissue that is removed will be sent to the pathology department for analysis. Using this information an exact diagnosis of your condition can be made and any further treatment required can be planned.

Your health, safety and well-being are of the utmost importance while you are in our hospital. We will do our best to make sure your treatment is successful and your stay is as pleasant as possible.

We hope you have found this information useful. If you have any problems or need further advice please contact the

Department of Maxillofacial Surgery.
Arrowe Park Hospital.
678 5111
Ext. 2579/2542

This leaflet is available in large print, Braille and on tape.
Please contact Geoff Pennock on 0151 604 7289.



Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust operates a No Smoking Policy.
Please refrain from smoking on site.

Author: Mr D C Jones,
Consultant Facial Surgeon
Date of Publication: June 2010
Date for Review: June 2012
Reference: British Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

PL/00219/Surgical-MaxFac/0909 **Do Not Copy.**
For further copies contact Supplies quoting the PL number.

Wirral University 
Teaching Hospital
NHS Foundation Trust

Information Leaflet

Biopsy of Mouth Lesion



Welcome to Wirral Hospital Day Case Service

This leaflet contains information about your operation and provides answers to some of the questions you might want to ask. We hope this will help you with your work, domestic and social arrangements.

Your appointment for admission and detailed instructions of what to do on the day will arrive through the post.

It is essential that you inform the department immediately if you are unable to attend for any reason.

On the day of surgery please bring with you all medications, tables, inhalers, skin patches or other treatments that are prescribed for you

Your procedure will be carried out in the Department of Maxillofacial Surgery. You should attend shortly before the appointed time.

Biopsy of a Mouth Lesion

The doctor has advised you to have a biopsy of a lesion within your mouth. A biopsy consists of removing the entire lesion, or taking a sample of a small part of the lesion. The piece removed is sent to a Pathologist for further analysis to help in making a diagnosis of your condition.

How is the biopsy performed?

Most biopsies are simply performed within the Department of Maxillofacial Surgery under a local anaesthetic (local injection to freeze the area). General anaesthetic is not required.

Where will the procedure be done?

The procedure will be done in the Out Patients Department of Maxillofacial Surgery .

When will the procedure be done?

When you attend the clinic for your consultation appointment you will be given a convenient date to attend for the biopsy.

Do I need to starve before the procedure?

No, you should eat, drink and take all your medications normally before the procedure, because you are having a local anaesthetic. Eating and drinking normally may be difficult for a few hours afterwards.

What after effects will I have following the surgery?

This varies from case to case but it is likely that you will have some mild discomfort and swelling after the procedure. The mouth heals very quickly and recovery within a week is normal.

Will I have stitches?

It is usually necessary to insert a couple of stitches after a biopsy. These stitches dissolve and do not need to be removed. They usually fall out by themselves after approximately two weeks.

When will I get my results?

A follow up appointment will be made approximately two weeks after your biopsy. This is to check on the healing and to give you the results of your biopsy. In most cases pathology reports are available within two weeks. Sometimes non urgent reports may take a little longer than this, but the clinic staff will advise you accordingly.

What happens if I have a problem after my surgery?

You should contact the Department of Maxillofacial Surgery on 6785111 extension 2542 during normal working hours. Outside these times you should attend the Accident & Emergency Department.

What are the risks of the procedure?

Following a biopsy in the mouth, it is normal for a minor degree of pain and swelling to occur post operatively. Occasionally, infection in the surgical site can occur which may delay healing. All these complications are unusual following mouth biopsy.