

PRE-OPERATIVE SKIN SURGERY INFORMATION

PRE-OPERATIVE CONSIDERATIONS

- Please bring a list of all your medications and allergies
- You are not required to cease Aspirin or Warfarin, but please inform your doctor if you are taking these or similar medications
- Do not drink alcohol for 48 hours prior or after your surgery
- Please attend with a family member or friend, who can drive you home
- Your procedure will take approximately 30 minutes. You may then be asked to remain in the recovery area for 15 minutes as a precautionary measure, prior to discharge
- It is advisable to have a carer stay with you for the first 24 hours if you live alone
- There is no need to fast
- Wear comfortable clothing that allows easy access to the area(s) being operated upon.
Avoid wearing white clothes
- Do not wear makeup if your face is to be operated on
- It is advisable to shower and wash your hair the morning of your operation as you may require a heavy dressing that you are unable to get wet or remove for one week
- If you are having lower leg surgery please bring along suitable footwear to wear home which will fit the thickness of a bandage around the foot
- If you are having surgery on your fingers or hands please remove all rings and bracelets on the affected hand. Due to post operative swelling, the jewellery may become tight and cause potential problems.

THE OPERATION

- Your procedure will be performed under local anaesthetic cover – you will be awake throughout
- You will be welcomed into the theatre and asked to sit or lie upon the operating table. If you have problems lying flat, please inform your nurse prior to the procedure
- Dr Banky will explain the procedure and ask if you have any questions. Your informed consent will be obtained prior to the commencement of the procedure
- The areas to be operated upon will be marked out and the anaesthetic administered
- The nurses will prepare the area with antiseptic solution, and arrange sterile drapes to protect the surgical fields. Please keep your hands away from the sterile field throughout the procedure
- All lesions removed are sent for histological analysis

- Reconstruction following surgery may involve the use of skin grafts or flaps. These may take 12 months to fully mature and look their best
- Secondary surgical procedures or injections may be required to revise or refine the scars following initial healing.

POST OPERATIVELY

- The nurse will discuss postoperative wound care and may give you a written sheet as an aide-memoire. This information includes other relevant details and telephone numbers to contact Dr Banky if you have any concerns
- Sutures are generally removed in 7 – 14 days depending on the site of your surgery and individual healing. At this time, Dr Banky will give you the pathology results.

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS

- *Swelling, Bruising, Bleeding:* Some ooze / bleeding is to be expected, however this usually settles quickly with pressure over the wound
- *Infection:* post operative wound infections are not uncommon; in some cases a course of antibiotics is required
- *Weakness:* you may experience weakness of muscles in the surgical area. This may be permanent or temporary
- *Scarring or distortion of normal features*
- *Numbness* may be permanent or temporary
- *Incomplete removal/ recurrence of the tumour.*

MINIMISING YOUR RISK

Sun protection measure including clothing, hats, sunglasses and sunblock (SPF 30, against UVB/UVA) are essential

Monitor your skin and report anything unusual to your doctor

Encourage family members to also protect their skin and have regular checks by a qualified doctor

If you have any concerns, please contact Dr Banky on 1300 418 481