

Hadfields procedure

This leaflet will explain what will happen when you come into hospital for your operation. It is important that you understand what to expect and that you feel able to take an active role in your treatment.

This surgery is usually performed as a day case, however depending upon other medical conditions you maybe required to stay overnight. This leaflet will answer some of the questions that you may have but if there is anything that you and your family are not sure about then please ask.

What is a Hadfields procedure?

A Hadfields procedure is an operation carried out to disconnect and remove part of (i.e. biopsy) the major nipple ducts. This will take approximately 20 minutes and is usually undertaken under a general anaesthetic (you are asleep).

What will happen to you?

On the morning of the operation you will see the surgeon who will talk to you and mark the correct side, and you will also see the anaesthetic doctor.

When you come to the theatre, you will be put to sleep first, and then we will make a cut through the areola skin just below the nipple. We then disconnect the major ducts from the back of the nipple, and remove some of the tissue as a biopsy that is sent to the pathology lab to be examined under the microscope by the pathology doctor. The cut is then stitched up using dissolvable stitches underneath the skin surface and a dressing is placed on top.

Possible complications

- Thickened scar
Scar healing is unpredictable and although usually the scar heals up to a fine line, occasionally the scar heals in a thickened fashion called a 'keloid' or 'hypertrophic' scar.
- Infection
Infection occurs in about 1 in 20 patients following this sort of procedure but if it occurs it can usually be treated with antibiotics. Occasionally, however, we may need to open the wound, drain out the infected fluid and then it may need to be packed, in which case it may take some weeks to heal.

- Haematoma
Some bruising is inevitable however, very occasionally blood collects in a lump underneath the wound (known as a haematoma) and this may need to be removed, either in the clinic or by a second operation.
- Wound pain
Some patients experience pain, discomfort or altered sensations in or around the wound during or after the healing process. Usually these sensations will settle with painkillers but if the problem continues, we would recommend that you contact your GP. If necessary, he/she can then refer you back to see us if there is a problem.
- Nipple numbness or necrosis
Due to disrupting the skin nerves, some people experience numbness of the nipple which is usually not permanent. Rarely, due to the blood supply being disrupted during surgery, the nipple may go black and may have to be removed.
- Need for further surgery
Depending on the results of the tissue examined, you may need to have further surgery to remove further tissue. This will be discussed with you when you come back to clinic for your results.

Follow up

An outpatient appointment will only be made for you following the biopsy results if it is medically necessary. You should make an appointment with your GP practice nurse 7-10 days after surgery. At that appointment, your wound will be checked to ensure that it is healing well and that you are getting back to your normal routine without any problems. You should receive a letter confirming your biopsy results 2-3 weeks after surgery.

Contact us

If you have any problems regarding your care or treatment at this hospital, please *Talk to us*. Your feedback will help us to improve and develop our service. Please speak to a member of staff in the clinic or on the ward, or if you would rather talk to a senior member of staff, ask to speak to the ward/departmental manager or matron.

Or speak to our Patient Relations Team who can offer you 'on the spot' support and advice as well as practical information at a time when you are feeling confused and anxious. Patient Relations can be contacted on: 0118 322 8338 or ask a member of staff, the receptionists or the switchboard to contact them.

Consultant Surgeons

Mr HN Umeh

Consultant Breast Surgeon

Mr B Smith

Consultant Oncoplastic and Reconstructive Breast Surgeon

Miss N Dunne

Consultant Oncoplastic and Reconstructive Breast Surgeon

Trust Grade Breast Surgeon

Mrs S Connolly

Dr E Hyett

Advanced Surgical Nurse Practitioners

Carol Lister

Vanessa Burridge

Nicky Woodrow

Our clinical teams can be contacted via Clinical Administration Team 3 (CAT 3) on 0118 322 1883, then press the option for 'breast'.

More information

If you have any questions about the procedure or this information, please speak to your doctor or nurse.

For more information about the Trust visit our website www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

This document can be made available in other languages and formats upon request.

Breast Care Clinic, December 2005

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