



Royal Berkshire
NHS Foundation Trust

Skin biopsy

Information for patients

The procedure

A biopsy (tissue sample) is done to diagnose diseases affecting the skin and mucous membranes.

A local anaesthetic cream will be applied to the area 30 – 40 minutes before the procedure to make the area numb.

Alternatively, a local anaesthetic injection can be given to the area before the procedure. During the procedure a tiny disc of skin will be taken away.

You might need a stitch to stop the wound bleeding.

After the procedure

1. Do not wash the area for 24 hours.
2. You might experience slight pain after the procedure; if necessary you can take some painkillers (e.g. Paracetamol) following dosage instruction on the packet.
3. If there is bleeding from the biopsy area, press on the area for a few minutes. If you cannot stop the bleeding or it becomes heavy, contact the Florey Unit on 0118 322 7213. If you are unable to contact the Florey Unit, contact your GP (or Westcall, the GP out of hours service) or go to the nearest Accident & Emergency Department.
4. If you notice any pus (thick yellow-white fluid) coming out of the wound, return to the Florey Unit for a course of antibiotics.
5. Return to the Florey Unit after 7-10 days for stitch removal, unless a dissolving stitch has been used.

If you would like any further information on any Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI's) or to find out how you can reduce your risks, please ask to speak to one of our Health Advisors whilst you are in the clinic. Alternatively you can phone them on 0118 322 7202 during clinic hours.

Contraception (25s and under) & Sexual Health (all ages) Drop-in Clinics – no appointment needed.

Department of Sexual Health
Florey and Contraceptive Services
21A Craven Road
Reading RG1 5LE
Tel: 0118 322 7202

www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/sexualhealth

www.safesex.berkshire.nhs.uk

Except for public holidays, the clinic is open:

Monday to Friday 7am – 7pm.

Saturday 9.30 am – 11.30 am.

The clinic is closed on Thursday between 8am – 9am for staff training.

Newbury Sexual Health Clinic
West Berkshire Community
Hospital
Benham Hill
Thatcham RG18 3AS

9.30am – 11.30am on Saturdays
(excluding those with a public holiday).



We will endeavour to see everyone. However, if between 6pm and 7pm attendance is high, we may ask you to return the next day.

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

Dept. of Sexual Health, May 2017

Review due: May 2019