
Wide Local Excisions

*****When calling to book this procedure, please let the staff member know that you need a 1 hour appointment for this. Usually this will be on a Tuesday.*****

What is a wide local excision (WLE)?

- 30-45 minute, in office procedure
- Done with local anesthetic
- Extra skin is taken from all sides around the scar or remaining skin cancer
- Deep dissolvable stitches & top stitches are placed
 - Top stitches need to be removed 15 days later
- If you have multiple skin cancers that need to be excised, only **one** will be done each visit. The others will be done one by one on a different day.

How do I prepare for the surgery?

- **STOP** the following 3 days prior if you are taking them:
 - Baby Aspirin (if for preventative measures only – **if your doctor has advised you to take it for medical reasons, do NOT stop this**)
 - Over the counter treatments like NSAIDs, natural supplements, garlic, ginkgo biloba
- **If your legs swell, wear over the counter compression stockings daily** for at least 1 week prior to reduce swelling as this makes the surgery difficult to do otherwise

How do I take care of the wound?

- Apply Vaseline daily to wound site
- Apply gauze overtop
- Seal with medical tape
 - *Takes 2-6 weeks of daily dressings – purchase downstairs in Drug & Bean Pharmacy (\$20 for box of 10 non-adherent PrimaPore gauze bandages)*
- Continue with Vaseline or scar gel after suture removal for 1 month
- **Note: sometimes “spitting sutures” occur, where the body gets rid of the deep stitches on their own for no particular reason. When this happens, a crusty area starts to appear along the scar line. Don’t panic & don’t pull it out! This is normal & once the stitch falls out on its own, the scar remains intact afterwards.**

Gauze & Tape Dressing



How do WLE fit in within my skin cancer management?

- The margins of the extra tissue will be checked to make sure all it is clear – we will call you to confirm this with you once the **results return, which is currently taking 6-8 weeks due to COVID**
- **Continue regular skin checks with your referring dermatologist**, at least once every 6-12 months