



Patient Information Leaflet: Penile Biopsy under Local Anaesthetic

What is a Penile Biopsy?

A **penile biopsy** is a minor procedure that involves removing a small sample of skin or tissue from the penis to be examined under a microscope. This helps your consultant diagnose or monitor skin conditions, lumps, ulcers, or other changes affecting the penile skin.

The procedure is typically carried out under **local anaesthetic** in an outpatient setting and takes around **15–30 minutes**.

Why Might I Need This Procedure?

Your consultant may recommend a penile biopsy if:

- There is an area of **persistent redness, thickening, or irritation**
- A **lump, ulcer or lesion** has appeared that needs further assessment
- There is a **suspected skin condition or early skin cancer**
- Previous treatments haven't resolved a skin problem

A biopsy provides a **definitive diagnosis** and helps guide the right treatment.

What Does the Procedure Involve?

- The area is cleaned with antiseptic
 - A local anaesthetic injection is given to numb the skin
 - A small section of tissue is removed, either with a **scalpel** or **punch biopsy tool**
 - The site may be closed with a **small dissolvable stitch** or left open to heal naturally
 - A dressing is applied
 - You will be able to go home shortly afterwards
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Will It Hurt?

You may feel a brief sting with the anaesthetic injection, but the procedure itself should not be painful. Once the anaesthetic wears off (after a few hours), the area may feel sore or bruised for a few days. This can be managed with simple pain relief such as paracetamol.

Aftercare Advice

To support healing and reduce the risk of infection:

- **Keep the area dry** for the first 48 hours
 - After 48 hours, gently clean with warm water and pat dry — no soap directly on the wound
 - Avoid sexual activity, masturbation or vigorous exercise for **7–10 days**
 - **Wear supportive underwear** to prevent rubbing
 - If a dressing is applied, follow the specific instructions given
 - Stitches (if used) will dissolve on their own in 1–2 weeks
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What to Expect During Recovery

- Mild discomfort, swelling or bruising is common
 - A small amount of bleeding or spotting may occur
 - A scab may form as the area heals
 - Most people return to normal daily activities within 1–2 days
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When to Seek Medical Advice

Please contact us if you notice:

- Increasing redness, swelling or pain
- Pus or yellow discharge from the site
- Bleeding that doesn't stop after applying pressure
- Difficulty passing urine
- Fever or feeling unwell



Getting Your Results

The biopsy sample will be sent to the laboratory for analysis. Results are usually available within **1–2 weeks**. Your consultant will explain the findings and discuss any treatment needed at your follow-up appointment.

Questions or Concerns?

Our team is here to support you — before, during and after your procedure. If you have any questions or are unsure about anything, please don't hesitate to contact us.

 **The Forbury Clinic**

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