



Patient Information Leaflet: Skin Tag Excision under Local Anaesthetic

What is a Skin Tag?

A **skin tag** is a small, soft, benign growth that often appears on the neck, underarms, eyelids, groin, or around the genital or anal area. Skin tags are harmless and not contagious, but they may become irritated, bleed, or catch on clothing — or you may simply prefer to have them removed.

What is Skin Tag Excision?

Skin tag excision is a **quick, minor procedure** to remove the skin tag using sterile surgical instruments. It is done under **local anaesthetic**, meaning the area will be numbed but you will be fully awake. The procedure is usually carried out in an outpatient setting and takes just a few minutes.

Why Might I Have This Procedure?

You may wish to have a skin tag removed if it is:

- **Irritated** or catching on clothing
- **Bleeding** or prone to infection
- **Changing** in appearance
- **Bothersome** for cosmetic or comfort reasons

Your consultant will assess the skin tag to ensure it is suitable for removal and that no further investigation is needed.

What Does the Procedure Involve?

- The area is cleaned with antiseptic
- A local anaesthetic is injected to numb the area
- The skin tag is carefully removed using surgical scissors or a scalpel



- The base may be cauterised (sealed) to minimise bleeding
- A small dressing may be applied if needed
- The whole procedure typically takes **10–15 minutes**

You can go home immediately afterwards.

Will It Hurt?

You may feel a brief sting when the local anaesthetic is injected, but the procedure itself should not be painful. After the anaesthetic wears off, you may feel mild soreness or tenderness, which can be managed with paracetamol.

Aftercare Advice

To support healing:

- **Keep the area clean and dry** for 24–48 hours
 - Wash gently with water — avoid scrubbing or using strong soaps
 - If a dressing was applied, follow instructions on when to remove or change it
 - Avoid applying creams or powders to the area unless advised
 - **Avoid swimming or soaking the area** (e.g. baths) for 48 hours
 - If the area was cauterised, a **small scab may form** — let it fall off naturally
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What to Expect During Healing

- Mild redness or swelling is normal
 - A small scab or scar may remain
 - Most areas heal fully within **7–10 days**
 - If the skin tag was large or in a sensitive area, healing may take a little longer
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When to Seek Medical Advice

Please contact us if you experience:



- Increased redness, swelling or pain
- Pus or yellow discharge from the site
- Bleeding that doesn't stop
- Fever or feeling unwell

These may be signs of infection and may require treatment.

Will It Come Back?

The removed skin tag will not return, but **new skin tags can develop over time**. If they become bothersome, they can also be removed.

Questions or Concerns?

If you have any questions before or after your skin tag removal, please don't hesitate to contact our team.

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