

POND SQUARE DENTAL

Mouth (Oral) Biopsy Under Local Anaesthetic

What is a biopsy?

A biopsy is a procedure where a small piece of tissue is removed from an area so that it can be looked at closely under a microscope, for the purpose of giving you a diagnosis.

There are two types of biopsy:

excision – where the biopsy aims to remove an area completely and is usually only appropriate for small lumps or swellings

incision - occasionally only a small piece of an abnormal area is removed to confirm a diagnosis

How is it done?

A local anaesthetic injection is used to numb the area which takes a couple of minutes to work. After this injection the procedure should be painless. The biopsy usually leaves a small hole that often requires stitching. In the majority of cases the stitches used are dissolvable and take around two weeks to disappear.

The surgical procedure usually takes around 15 minutes from start to finish.

Is there much soreness afterwards?

When the anaesthetic wears off, there will be some pain and discomfort. Regular painkillers (e.g. paracetamol and/or ibuprofen) will usually be effective. You will be advised which are the best to take. Any discomfort usually only lasts a few days.

Will there be much bleeding?

Although there may be a little bleeding at the time of the biopsy, this usually stops very quickly. As long as the area is left undisturbed (i.e. no rinsing/washing or dabbing) and not warmed up for any reason it should not re-bleed.

If the biopsy site does bleed again, apply pressure over the area for at least 10 minutes with a clean, rolled-up handkerchief or gauze swabs (if you have been given some). This should stop the bleeding but if it continues please contact the hospital.

When can I return to work?

This largely depends on your job and how you feel after the procedure. Most people are able to return to work later the same day.

Will I need another appointment?

Since the stitches are dissolvable, a follow-up appointment is not always necessary but you will usually be asked to attend an appointment for the results of the biopsy to be discussed with you. This may be scheduled between three and six weeks after your procedure. If the biopsy is urgent, then the results will be available sooner.

If you have any questions or worries either before treatment or afterwards you should contact us at the practice

by phone: 02083489995 or email: info@pondsquaredental.co.uk

LOVE YOUR SMILE

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