

## Patient Information

# Excisional Biopsy of the Vulva

### Introduction

Your Doctor or Nurse has recommended that you have a biopsy of your vulva skin. This is when a small piece of tissue is removed and sent for examination at the laboratory. This is a procedure often done in outpatients using some local anesthetic. Once the area is numb the biopsy is taken. Please let your Doctor or Nurse know if you are on any medication. We also need to know if you take any medication which makes your blood thinner such as aspirin or warfarin as we may need to stop this prior to your procedure.

### Complications are rare but can include:

Pain and soreness, excessive bleeding from the biopsy site, infection which may require a course of antibiotics, further requirement for biopsies.

Please seek further advice from your GP or Colposcopy department if you are concerned. Occasionally the vulval skin may not heal leading to wound breakdown. This is usually managed conservatively.

### What to expect after the biopsy:

You may notice some spotting from the biopsy site. We would advise you to wear a sanitary pad until the spotting stops. Take simple analgesia for discomfort.

We may have used dissolvable sutures which should dissolve.

You may bath and shower as normal from the next day. It is important to keep the area clean.

### Contact details for more information

#### Colposcopy Department

Princess Royal Hospital 01952 641222 Ext- 5969 5667 5968



## Further information is available from;

### Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

We act on your behalf when handling patient and family concerns, liaising with staff, managers and where appropriate, relevant organisations to negotiate immediate or prompt solutions. We can also help you get support from other local or national agencies.

Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, Tel: 0800 783 0057 or 01743 261691

Princess Royal Hospital, Tel: 01952 282888

## Other Sources of Information

### NHS 111

A fast and easy way to get the right help, whatever the time. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year.

Telephone: 111 (free from a landline or mobile)

Website: [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

### Patient UK

Provides leaflets on health and disease translated into 11 other languages as well as links to national support/self-help groups and a directory of UK health websites.

Website: [www.patient.info](http://www.patient.info)

### Self Help & Support Groups

A selection of websites providing access to good quality patient and consumer health information, covering specific age groups and conditions.

Also includes Shropshire Community Directory which contains up-to-date information on community groups, clubs, societies, organisations, support groups and self-help groups covering Shropshire and its borders.

Website: [www.library.sath.nhs.uk/find/patients/](http://www.library.sath.nhs.uk/find/patients/)

## Information in Other Formats

Are there different versions of the leaflet available e.g. Large type face, different languages, print? size, tape?

Website: [www.sath.nhs.uk](http://www.sath.nhs.uk)

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