

Shave Excision

What is a shave excision?

A shave excision is a superficial technique to remove raised skin lesions such as raised moles and seborrhoeic keratoses.

Does it hurt?

Shave excision is carried out under a local anaesthetic, an injection into the skin that numbs the area. You may have had local anaesthetic before a dental procedure. The anesthetic stings for 10-20 seconds and then you should feel no pain. If you have ever experience problems before with local anaesthetic please inform the doctor.

Does it leave a scar?

Yes. All surgical procedures will leave a mark in the skin. This is usually slightly pink to start with and will fade to leave a white scar, roughly the size of the lesion. The skin though will be flat and shave excisions have a very high cosmetic satisfaction with patients. Rarely a thickened scar (keloid) may form. If you have had problems with scars please inform the doctor.

Do I need to do anything after the procedure?

The anaesthetic will last a couple of hours. There may be some pain after this and taking paracetamol before the anaesthetic wears off, and regularly for the first day, may help.

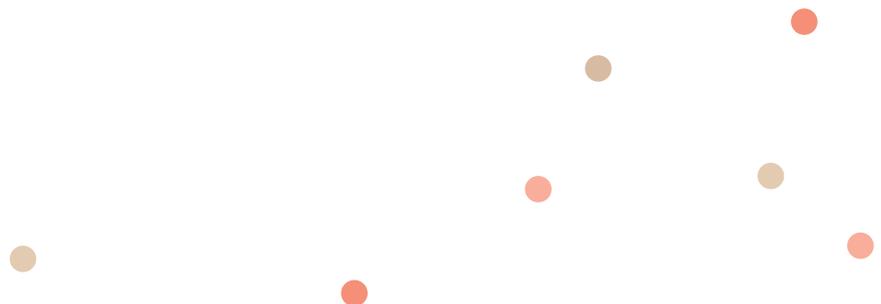
The wound from a shave excision is like a deep graze. We recommend applying Vaseline to the wound regularly to improve healing. It usually takes 2-3 weeks to heal completely.

Is it likely to get infected?

Wound infections are uncommon. It is normal for the wound to ooze and a crust to form. If redness develops in the surrounding skin or the wound suddenly becomes much more painful then you may need some treatment for a wound infection.

Can lesions grow back?

Some raised or proud skin lesions actually are deeper in the skin, pushing the layers above upwards to give a raised appearance. Shave excision may not remove all of the deepest part of the lesion and therefore some lesions, like intradermal naevi (skin coloured moles), can grow back with time. It's unlikely these will be of any great cosmetic concern and you will be advised beforehand if shave excision is unlikely to give a good cosmetic outcome.





Local anaesthetic is injected around the lesion to numb the area.



A flexible razor blade like device is used to remove the lesion.



The skin left will be like a graze that will heal up in the usual way over 1-2 weeks.

