

Minor Procedure Pre-Care

What are minor procedures?

A minor procedure is usually a surgical procedure carried out under a local anaesthetic whilst you are awake. These range from simple shave excisions of moles and seborrheic warts, to excisions of skin cancers.

Do I need to fast?

No. Please eat and drink as normal.

Do I need to stop my blood thinners?

Generally, blood thinners do not need to be stopped unless you are advised to do so. Ideally patients on Warfarin should have their INR checked 2 days pre-surgery and it should be less than 2.5. If you are on one of the more modern blood thinners, these can be omitted on the day of surgery. If you have cardiac stents or have had a past stroke or heart attack, you should not alter your medication.

Can I have surgery if I have a cardiac device?

You must inform the doctor if you have a cardiac device, such as a pacemaker. Generally these procedures need cardiac monitoring in main theatres.

Can I drive to the appointment?

You are best advised to get someone to bring you to your appointment and pick you up afterwards or take a taxi. The anaesthetic contains adrenaline and sometime this can make you feel funny after the procedure.

Do I need to shave around the area?

If you are having excisional surgery, where a lesion is cut out and the skin sutured, you will need a dressing afterwards. Dressings stick better to shaved skin and they are much less painful when removed if they are not stuck to hairs. Shaving hair bearing areas is therefore useful, but we can do this for you.

I am allergic to Latex – Does this matter?

Yes. Please inform the doctor and nursing team so that they can take appropriate precautions and use latex free gloves and equipment.

I have reacted to iodine in the past – Is this a problem?

If you have any past allergies, please let the medical team know. There are alternatives to most cleansing products so if you are allergic to one we can swap to another.

