

## Patient information

# Plastic surgery - skin graft

Skin grafting is a surgical procedure by which skin is placed over a wound to permanently replace damaged or missing skin. A skin graft may be taken from behind the ear, neck, arm or leg.

The damaged tissue which has been removed will be sent to pathology for examination and the results will be given to you at your outpatient appointment with your consultant.

### Following your surgery

The operation and donor sites need to be kept clean and dry. Your dressings will be secure to assist healing and need to be left intact until they are changed by:

- The dressing team in the outpatient department in one week

OR

- Your practice nurse in ..... days

Any stitches will be removed at this time. You may be asked to return for further dressing changes.

Having your stitches / staples removed can be sore. Please take some simple painkillers such as paracetamol before you attend to have them removed.

- Steristrips: please leave for 1 week or unless otherwise advised to remove
- It is quite normal to notice some bruising around the site. Keep the limb elevated as much as possible.
- Healing usually takes 10 – 14 days but the skin may be delicate and sensitive for some months.

- Should any bleeding occur, leave the dressing intact and apply gentle pressure with a clean cotton handkerchief or tissue for 15 minutes.
- Any dressings on your face may be covered for short periods.
- You may experience some mild to moderate pain. This can be relieved by taking painkillers. It is advisable to have a supply of paracetamol and ibuprofen at home.
- Do not use make up, creams or any perfumed products near the wound until the stitches are removed and the wound is fully healed. Thereafter sun block should be used when outside.

Outpatients appointment.....  
 This will be sent to you.

Contact one of the following if:

- You experience severe pain
- Any bleeding is not controlled within ½ to 1 hour
- Your wound becomes red, hot and swollen, as this may indicate an infection

The Martin Corke Day Surgery Unit on 01284 713050 between 7.45am and 8.00pm Monday to Friday.

The Dressings Clinic at West Suffolk Hospital 01284 713265  
 Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm

Outside of these hours contact the surgical ward F5 on 01284 713262 and speak to the nurse in charge. Please have your hospital number on the discharge letter available.

Your GP

Or NHS 111