

Patient information

Vulval biopsy

Why is it taken?

Occasionally changes can occur in the tissue outside the vagina called the vulva. A biopsy may help the doctor to decide what treatment is required.

Procedure

A vulval biopsy is where a small piece of tissue is removed from the vulva. This is sent to the laboratory for examination. The procedure is carried out under local anaesthetic and usually takes just a few minutes.

Dressing

You may have some gauze swabs over the wound and a pad for your underwear. This will get you home comfortably. It is advisable to wear soft pads while healing is taking place.

Bleeding

There may be some blood loss from the wound. If the wound bleeds heavily put the gauze swabs over the wound and press for five minutes. This should stop the bleeding, but if you are concerned about heavy bleeding please contact us (see contact numbers).

Sutures (stitches)

You may have sutures (stitches) in the biopsy site. These should dissolve in about 2 weeks.

Pain control

The local anaesthetic used to numb the area will last four to six hours. It is advisable to take some painkillers such as paracetamol or ibuprofen, usually when you get

home. This will keep you comfortable as the local anaesthetic wears off.

Bathing and showering

- The wound should be kept dry for at least 24 hours
- You may bath or shower as normal after this
- Plain water is best
- Avoid rubbing dry, pat dry or use a hair dryer

Work

You should take the rest of the day off and rest. Avoid lots of walking as this may cause rubbing and soreness. Try to lie down rather than sit as this avoids any pressure on the wound and allows for good circulation for the healing process. Normal activities including light exercise may continue.

Results

We will write to you and your GP with the results in three to four weeks. If you need a further appointment we will contact you by letter or phone. If you need any further advice please contact:

Vulval / Colposcopy Clinic 01284 713601

Web link: <http://www.bssvd.org/>

If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the website for AccessAble (the new name for DisabledGo)
<https://www.accessable.co.uk/organisations/west-suffolk-nhs-foundation-trust>



© West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust