Curettage and Cautery

What should I expect?
We recommend that a friend or relative accompanies you to the outpatients department. We also recommend that your friend or relative drives you home. Your visit to the general outpatients department should take less than 1 hour although it may take longer depending on clinic delays.

What is Curettage?
Curettage is the use of a curette (a spoon-shaped surgical instrument) to remove tissue by scraping or scooping a superficial lesion from the surface of your skin. The treated area will be the same size as the affected area.

Why am I having Curettage?
This is done in order to treat and confirm the diagnosis of your skin condition and therefore to make sure that you receive the correct treatment.

What am I to expect when I have this procedure?
This procedure takes only a few minutes. You will receive a small local anaesthetic injection into the affected area. This is a little uncomfortable and may feel like a strong stinging sensation. This sensation will pass within a few moments. Afterwards you will not feel any further discomfort.

During the procedure bleeding will occur, this is usually a small amount. We will cauterise (this is hot instrument used to seal off very small blood vessels) the area to prevent further bleeding after you leave the department.

This would will be very superficial and is unlikely to get infected, however if an infection should occur please see your GP who can prescribe some ointment.

If you have any questions or concerns about the procedure please ask the nursing staff when you book into clinic.

Important Information
Please remember that this leaflet is intended as general information only. It is not definitive. We aim to make the information as up to date and accurate as possible, but please be warned that it is always subject to change. Please, therefore, always check specific advice on the procedure or any concerns you may have with your doctor.

Hand Hygiene
In the interests of our patients the trust is committed to maintaining a clean, safe environment. Hand hygiene is a very important factor in controlling infection. Alcohol gel is widely available throughout our hospitals at the patient bedside for staff to use and also at the entrance of each clinical area for visitors to clean their hands before and after entering.
Your comments
We are always interested to hear your views about our leaflets. If you have any comments, please contact the Patient Experience Team on 01323 417400 Ext: 5860 or by email at:  
esh-tr.patientexperience@nhs.net

Other formats
If you require any of the Trust leaflets in alternative formats, such as large print or alternative languages, please contact the Equality and Human Rights Department.

Tel: 01424 755255 Ext: 2620

After reading this information are there any questions you would like to ask? Please list below and ask your nurse or doctor.

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Reference
The following clinicians have been consulted and agreed this patient information:

Dr Von Der Werth  Consultant Dermatologist
Sister Catherine Watsham  Sister General Outpatients

Next review date:  January 2019

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