

Experts in Skin & Hair

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 experienced problems before with local anaesthetic please inform the doctor.

Does it leave a scar?

Yes. All surgical procedures will leave a mark on the skin. This is usually slightly pink to start with and will fade to leave a white scar, roughly the size of the lesion. However the scar should 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 before 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. 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.

