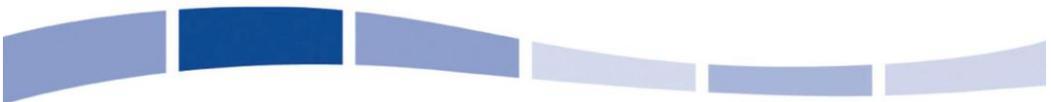


# One-stop skin cancer clinic

## Patient information

**Dermatology Department**

Incorporating hospital and community health services, teaching and research



You have been referred to the one-stop skin cancer clinic. This leaflet provides information about this clinic and hopefully answers some of your questions and concerns.

### **Why have I been referred to the one-stop skin cancer clinic?**

Your GP is worried that a mole or a lump on your skin may be a skin cancer and would like it to be checked urgently by the skin department. The one-stop skin cancer clinic is run by a team of doctors and nurses with an expertise in lumps and bumps.

You will be contacted within a few days of your GP making an electronic referral to make an appointment in clinic within 14 days.

### **What will happen at my appointment?**

You will initially be seen by a skin doctor or nurse practitioner. They will ask you some questions about your skin and general health.

In addition to examining your mole/lump, you will be offered a full skin examination to check for any other worrying lumps/marks. You will need to undress for this examination, but your privacy and dignity will be respected at all times. Please let us know if you would not like us to check the rest of your skin. Sometimes a special hand-held microscope is used to help look at your skin.



**Coming to the clinic can be worrying and difficult, so please feel free to bring a friend or relative for support.**

### **How long will it take?**

**You may be at the clinic for up to four hours, so you may like to bring something to read, eat or drink with you.**

### **Will they remove the mole or lump on the day?**

Most moles and lumps seen in the clinic are harmless, in which case you will be reassured and discharged. However, if it needs further investigation, this is done by taking a skin biopsy. This means taking a sample of or removing the whole lump. We will try to do this on the same day as your clinic visit, but you may have to return on another day.

### **How do they remove it?**

The biopsy is usually done in the out-patients clinic using local anaesthetic which is injected into the skin to numb the area. The procedure takes approximately half an hour after which you will be able to continue normal daily activities with the exception of heavy lifting or excessive sport. Further details about the biopsy and aftercare will be given to you at the clinic.

### **Will it hurt?**

The injection of local anaesthetic can sting or burn temporarily, but the biopsy itself will not hurt. There can be some discomfort as the anaesthetic wears off, but you will be given details about painkillers and aftercare at the clinic.

### **What happens to the sample?**

The sample is sent to the histopathology department at Barts Health where it is examined under a microscope to find what it is.

### **What will happen after my appointment?**

Results are available after approximately four weeks. You can receive these at your next clinic visit or have the results posted to you if it is likely to be a harmless mole or lump.

### **Will I need further tests?**

In most cases, the mole or lump is harmless, in which case you will be reassured and discharged. If however the results of the biopsy are abnormal you may require further tests such as CT (computerised tomography) or further surgery. These will be discussed with you if needed once the results are available.

# Useful information

Homerton Health Shop is a drop-in health and cancer information centre, based at the main entrance of the hospital. There is also a Macmillan cancer information and support manager who can provide cancer information, financial, practical and emotional support to anyone affected by cancer, their relatives, carers and friends.

 (Telephone): 020 8510 5191 9am and 5pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

 (Email): [healthshop@homerton.nhs.uk](mailto:healthshop@homerton.nhs.uk)

 (Website) Macmillan Cancer Support:  
[www.macmillan.uk/information-and-support](http://www.macmillan.uk/information-and-support)

 (Website) NHS Choices: [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

## Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS can provide information and support to patients and carers and will listen to your concerns, suggestion or queries. The service is available between 9am and 5pm.

 (Telephone) 0208 510 7315

 (Textphone) 07584 445 400

 (Email) [PALS@homerton.nhs.uk](mailto:PALS@homerton.nhs.uk)

If you require this information in large print, plain print, audio or Braille please contact the Patient Information Team on 0208 510 5302, text: 07584 445 400 or email: [patientinformation@homerton.nhs.uk](mailto:patientinformation@homerton.nhs.uk)

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