

Skin Lesion

Your Doctor has asked you to book in to have a lesion removed.

This may be:

- A shave biopsy or punch biopsy
- An excisional biopsy, or
- A curette and diathermy

1/ Shave or punch biopsy

This will involve an injection of local anaesthetic and adrenaline around the lesion in question. The local anaesthetic numbs the skin and the adrenaline helps to reduce the bleeding.

Your Doctor will then use either a small rounded punch to obtain a piece of skin for sampling, or will scoop the lesion out using a fine flexible blade. In most cases, this will not require stitches afterwards.

Your wound will be dressed and the sample sent to the lab for processing to determine a diagnosis.

Most cases will only require a single appointment unless your Doctor has specifically asked you to book a double.

You will have a \$40 out of pocket cost for the procedure, to pay on the day.

2/ Excisional biopsy

An excisional biopsy is where your Doctor is required to make an elliptical excision around a skin lesion in order to remove it to send to pathology.

Local anaesthetic is given first to numb the region of interest.

The doctor will then remove the skin lesion and close the wound using stitches.

You will be asked to return to have your stitches removed usually 1 week later. At that time you will be given the results of the biopsy. Excisional biopsies usually require a double appointment to be made, unless your Doctor has requested differently.

There will be nothing to pay on the day of the procedure, however, you will be asked to pay for the procedure on the day your stitches are removed and your wound checked.

The total cost of this will vary depending on the lesion, however, the out of pocket expense will only be \$80.

3/ Curette and diathermy

Some lesions can be managed by a process called curette and diathermy. This often involves a series of appointments whereby your Doctor will provide local anaesthetic around the lesion followed by a series of scrapings and diathermy (heat application).

The number of treatments required will be different for different lesions and your Doctor will discuss this with you.

For your initial appointment, you will have an out of pocket expense of \$50. Should you require multiple treatments for the same lesion, these will bear no extra expense.