

Ward L5, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Split skin grafting

Before your operation

If you have a wound from surgery, or an ulcer, burn or abrasion, your doctor may explain that you require a procedure known as a split skin graft to ensure that it heals.

The operation may be performed under general or local anaesthetic and will be discussed with you beforehand by your surgeon and/or anaesthetist.

The operation

The operation involves the removal of the top layer from an area of your skin, usually the thigh, known as the donor site. After your wound has been cleaned the skin from the donor site can be applied.

If there is spare skin from your donor site it can be stored for up to 10 days and then used if your wound is not healing well.

Usually the skin from the donor site is applied during the operation in which it is removed. However sometimes the wound may not be clean enough and so the skin is stored and then applied a few days later.

After your operation

- Your wound will be covered by a padded dressing which may be held in place by stitches.
- After five days the dressing is removed and the wound is inspected.
- If spare skin has been stored, it is at this time that it may be used.
- From this point onwards the graft will be redressed regularly until it is healed.
- You will also have a padded dressing on the donor site (usually the thigh).
- Unless this dressing becomes soiled it will stay undisturbed for 10 to 14 days.
- If the skin graft has been applied to a leg wound you may be asked to remain in bed for two to five days. Such rest is very important for the healing of the wound.

- If you have stitches they are usually dissolvable. If non dissolvable stitches have been required they will be removed within the dressing clinic at your outpatient's appointment.
- You will experience scarring from the skin graft and possibly skin discolouration at the donor site dependant upon the procedure performed. This will be discussed fully with you during consent.
- You will be followed up regularly in the first instance through outpatients until your wound is completely healed.
- Longer term wound healing will be discussed with you during your outpatient appointments which will include the application of aqueous/E45 cream and massage to the donor site to further promote wound healing.

Consent

A doctor will ask for your written consent for the skin graft to be taken and also for its storage. This is a legal requirement. During the consent process risks, benefits and any other alternative treatments will be discussed. If you have any questions or are unsure of the procedure please ask the doctor or nurse before you sign the consent forms.



Addenbrooke's is smoke-free. You cannot smoke on site. For advice on quitting, contact your GP or the NHS smoking helpline free, 0800 169 0 169

Please ask if you require this information in other languages, large print or audio format: 01223 216032 or patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Informacje te można otrzymać w innych językach, w wersji dużym drukiem lub audio. Zamówienia prosimy składać pod numerem: 01223 216032 lub wysyłając e-mail: patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Polish

Se precisar desta informação num outro idioma, em impressão de letras grandes ou formato áudio por favor telefone para o 01223 216032 ou envie uma mensagem para: patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Portuguese

Если вам требуется эта информация на другом языке, крупным шрифтом или в аудиоформате, пожалуйста, обращайтесь по телефону 01223 216032 или на вебсайт patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Russian

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Cantonese

Bu bilgiyi diger dillerde veya büyük baskılı ya da sesli formatta isterseniz lütfen su numaradan kontak kurun: 01223 216032 veya asagidaki adrese e-posta gönderin: patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Turkish

এই তথ্য বাংলায়, বড় অক্ষরে বা অডিও টেপে পেতে চাইলে দয়া করে 01223 216032 নম্বরে ফোন করুন বা patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk ঠিকানায় ই-মেইল করুন।

Bengali

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