



# Your visit to the Dermatology Clinic

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## Information for patients from Dermatology

You have been seen by the clinical nurse specialist / doctor today and been diagnosed with:

\_\_\_\_\_

You are being referred to our surgical colleague / team who specialises in this area:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

### What happens next?

You will receive an appointment to meet them for a consultation. This is where the doctor will examine you and discuss the finer details of further treatment. This is also an opportunity for you to ask questions such as:

- Will I have a local or general anaesthetic?
- Will I need to stay overnight?
- Will I have to have someone to bring me to the hospital and take me home?
- How long will I be incapacitated for after my operation?

**Please note it is unlikely that surgery will be performed at your FIRST appointment**

### What happens after my first appointment?

Once you have seen the doctor, a date will be set for you to have your procedure. You may need a preoperative assessment visit to check your general health before surgery.

Once your surgery has been completed, you may also need to be seen by the dermatology team.

### Will I need a follow-up after my procedure?

Each patient's needs are assessed and a follow-up plan is agreed. A follow-up appointment may not be needed for every patient.

Patients may be offered a follow-up as below:

- **Melanoma stage Ia:** two clinic appointments, then discharge at the end of year 1.
- **Melanoma stage Ib:** two clinic appointments for one year, then yearly for four years. Discharge at the end of year five.
- **Melanoma stage IIa:** two clinic appointments for two years, then followed by two clinic appointments for one year. Then yearly appointments for two years, with discharge at the end of year five.
- **Melanoma stage IIb and IIc:** four clinic appointments for two years, followed by two clinic appointments for one year. Then yearly appointments for two years, with discharge at the end of year five.
- **Melanoma stage III:** four clinic appointments for three years, then two clinic appointments for two years, with discharge at the end of year five.
- Some patients may need life-long follow-up.
- For other non-melanoma skin cancers, a separate follow-up regime may be offered.

### **My lesion has changed, what should I do?**

If you notice a significant change in the growth rate, size, or behaviour of a lesion, please contact the Macmillan Skin Cancer Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) team via the Cancer Care Line on 01227 868666.

**This leaflet has been produced with and for patients.**

If you would like this information in **another language, audio, Braille, Easy Read, or large print** please ask a member of staff. You can ask someone to contact us on your behalf.

**Any complaints, comments, concerns, or compliments** please speak to your doctor or nurse, or contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 01227 783145 (tel://+441227783145), or email [ekh-tr.pals@nhs.net](mailto:ekh-tr.pals@nhs.net) ([ekh-tr.pals@nhs.net](mailto:ekh-tr.pals@nhs.net))

**Patients should not bring large sums of money or valuables into hospital.** Please note that East Kent Hospitals accepts no responsibility for the loss or damage to personal property, unless the property has been handed into Trust staff for safe-keeping.

**Further patient leaflets** are available via the East Kent Hospitals website (<https://www.ekhuft.nhs.uk/information-for-patients/patient-information/>).

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