



What is an Excision?

A skin excision is a procedure that is used to remove a skin lesion (skin cancers or benign lesions). Following the removal of the tissue, the provider will then use sutures to repair the skin. The tissue sample will be evaluated by a pathologist under the microscope and the results will be communicated to my doctor for determination of further treatment.

- The physician will verify the identification of the patient and the site of the suspicious skin lesion.
- The identified area will be cleansed and prepped in sterile fashion.
- A local anesthetic will be injected into the site.
- A scalpel blade will be used to remove the skin lesion.
- Any bleeding at site will be stopped with light cautery, as necessary.
- Absorbable and non-absorbable sutures may be used to repair the skin for closure.
- Sterile dressing will be placed as appropriate.
- Bathing 24 hours post procedure is allowed.

Risks and complications to excision procedures can include but are not limited to:

- Bleeding
- Infection
- Pain
- Scarring; scar tissue is pink for 3 to 6 months and then usually fades to white. Sun exposure may cause a scar to darken. The appearance of a surgical scar usually continues to improve for 6 to 12 months, as the scar “matures.” The surgery scar is usually strong by 4 weeks.
- Dehiscence (wound opening) or discoloration at site.
- Nerve damage; a change of feeling (sensation) often occurs around a scar. It may be numb or sensitive. In some areas of the body, there is a risk of motor nerve damage.