Information About Surgitron: “Sutureless Surgery”

**Background:**
High frequency radio waves are used to remove skin lesions such as benign moles or skin tags – no scalpel blade or sutures are required. Local anaesthetic is injected into the area a few minutes prior to the procedure that takes only a few minutes for each lesion. The wounds heal just as a graze does – usually over a period of 10-14 days.

Warts can also be removed with this method. The process of removing warts is different from that of removing skin tags or moles – the skin surface is broken so the base of the wart can be sealed. These wounds typically take 4-6 weeks to heal. Most people are able to continue their usual daily activities within a few days and the wounds are generally not painful. There is usually some scarring.

**Moles:**
Moles which are flat are not suitable for removal with Surgitron. Fleshy moles (dermal naevi) are easily removed and are always sent to the lab for analysis to ensure there are no precancerous changes. In the unlikely event of pre-cancerous or cancerous changes being found, further surgery would be required. Digital photographs may also be taken of the mole to record the site of the mole and to help determine the suitability for Surgitron treatment.

**Pacemakers:**
It is theoretically possible for the Surgitron machine to interfere with a pacemaker. Please advise us if you have a pacemaker so alternative methods of removal can be discussed.

**Aspirin and Warfarin:**
These do not need to be stopped prior to Surgitron treatment. Please advise us if you are taking any medication or if you are allergic to any medications or iodine.

**Follow up:**
No follow up is generally required if a skin tag or mole is removed. Dressing changes are usually required daily for the first week and then 2-3 times a week thereafter if a wart is removed. A small charge to cover the cost of dressings may apply.

**Lab Results:**
The lab results will be sent to you by post - or can be emailed to you if you prefer.

**Complications:**
- **Bruising** can occur as a result of injecting local anaesthetic – this is more likely on the face or about the eyelids. This settles without any lasting problems within a week or so.
- **Pinkness:** the treated area once healed may be slightly pink or even red for several months – this usually resolves over a period of 4-6 months.
- **Infection** is an uncommon complication of this surgical method. It is more likely to occur in the deeper wounds associated with wart removal rather than the site of a skin tag or mole removal.
Increasing pain, heat, redness and smelly discharge are signs of infection. If you think an infection is developing please call us and we will arrange an urgent follow-up appointment.

- **Scarring** is usually not associated with the removal of moles or skin tags, although infection can result in scarring. Scar tissue can form when warts are removed.
- **Delayed healing:** This is a very rare complication that can occur and is usually on the lower leg.
- **Pigmentation:** Again very rarely the removal of the surface of a mole can stimulate the production of pigment. The site of the raised mole heals flat as expected but brown or black pigment can form under the skin about 3 to 5 months after the surgery. It is often best to leave the pigment as removing it requires breaking the skin surface and therefore a small scar would form.
- **Regrowth:** Occasionally a skin tag, mole or “barnacle” will re-grow. This usually occurs within a year or so of removing the lesion.
- **Incomplete removal:** Occasionally a lesion is incompletely removed. This can occur because a small fragment of the lesion remains and cannot be seen at the time of surgery and is not obvious until the lesion has healed. A brief follow up procedure will remove the remaining lesion. The cost for a follow up procedure is approximately $50.

For more information please contact:

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