Minor Procedure Patient Information

Minor procedures are the surgical procedures that can be performed in the clinic, using local anesthetic. These procedures usually take less than 30 minutes, and the patient can go home afterward. Most common skin surgeries are considered a minor procedure, including removal of moles, skin tags, and excess scar tissue.

Before the Procedure

* If the surgery site has hair, you can clip the hair on the day of procedure (to avoid pulling with the dressing tape). If the site is on the eyebrow or head do not remove the hair.
* Avoid taking Aspirin, Advil, Aleve, or similar medications for 1-2 weeks before the procedure. If you are taking any blood thinner medications, please inform us before the procedure.

Procedure

The procedure is done under local anesthetic which blocks the pain-sensing nerves. You may feel pressure from the procedure, but no pain. The numbing effect lasts about 1-2 hours.

If you feel nervous, feel free to listen to calming music during the procedure.

After the Procedure

* You might have very mild discomfort after the procedure and can take Tylenol 500 mg every 4-6 hours if you feel any pain.
* You can also apply an ice pack intermittently on the site for the first 24 hours to avoid any bleeding and swelling.
* The wound dressing can be removed after 24 hours and you can shower. Wash the incision site with water and soap, then tap and dry it. Do not take a bath for one week.
* Leave the incision open to air. Do not apply Polysporin as it prolongs the healing process. If the incision feels too dry or itchy, you can apply a thin layer of Vaseline or Vitamin E ointment.
* Try to get rest for 1-2 days after the surgery and avoid physical activities that cause pulling on the surgical site for a week.
* If you have sutures, you will need to book a follow up visit in a week to remove them and check the surgical site.
* If the surgery site is in an exposed area of the body, apply sunscreen and massage it after one week.

Risks

* Allergic reaction to anesthetic (this is extremely rare)
* Bleeding. There is a very small risk of bleeding in every surgical procedure.
* Infection. If you develop a fever or have yellow discharge from the wound, please call the clinic. If it is after hours, please call 811 or go to the nearest walk-in clinic.