

Wide Local Excision (Lumpectomy)

The aim of this operation is to remove an area of disease in the breast with a margin of normal, healthy tissue around it. This area of disease may be due to an invasive cancer or a pre invasive ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS).

It may be combined with a wire guided procedure (**see wire localisation leaflet**) if the area of disease cannot be felt.

Invasive cancer: Lymph glands (also called lymph nodes) are routinely removed and tested using a surgical technique called Sentinel Node Biopsy (SNB) when an invasive breast cancer is removed. (**see Sentinel Node Biopsy leaflet**).



You will also receive an appointment with your surgeon to discuss the results of your surgery; this is usually 10 - 14 days following your operation.

Following your surgery you will need a responsible adult to accompany you home and stay with you overnight.

Along with your usual toiletries, you should bring in a dressing gown and slippers as you will walk to theatre and the hospital corridor can be cold. In case you stay overnight it can be helpful to bring comfortable nightwear. We encourage you to wear a soft supportive, non-wired bra into hospital and to wear it when you go home. It will help support the breast tissue of your operated breast and aid healing. Wearing this supportive, non-wired bra day and night in the first few weeks can be helpful.

If you work, we advise that you have time off to recover depending on the type of surgery you are having and what job you do. It is important to give yourself time to recuperate both physically

- Regularly massaging/moisturising across your breast. This will help relieve the congestion of fluid build up.
- Your breast care nurse can provide you with a specific type of pad to wear in your bra.

Your Feelings after Wide Local Excision

Immediately after the operation you will probably feel very well, possibly much better than you expected. But you may find that intermittently you experience periods of feeling low; these feelings are quite normal. You may be anxious about looking at or touching your breast which may be quite bruised and swollen. The swelling and bruising will improve, but may take a few weeks or even months to completely settle down. If you have any concerns about how you are feeling or your wound or breast please contact the breast care nursing team.

The risks of a general anaesthetic

General anaesthetics have some risks, which may be increased if you have chronic medical conditions, but in general they are as follows:

- **Common temporary side effects** (risk of 1 in 10 to 1 in 100) include bruising or pain in the area of injections, blurred vision and sickness, these can usually be treated and pass off quickly.
- **Infrequent complications** (risk of 1 in 100 to 1 in 10,000) include temporary breathing difficulties, muscle pains, headaches, damage to teeth, lip or tongue, sore throat and temporary problems with speaking.
- **Extremely rare and serious complications** (risk of less than 1 in 10,000). These include severe allergic reactions and death, brain damage, kidney and liver failure, lung damage, permanent nerve or blood vessel damage, eye injury, and damage to the voice box. These are very rare and may depend on whether you have other serious medical conditions.

The Trust cannot accept any responsibility for the accuracy of the information given if the leaflet is not used by RD&E staff undertaking procedures at the RD&E hospitals.

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