

After the biopsy in your mouth

Other formats

If you need this information in another format such as audio CD, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language please contact the PALS desk on 01271 314090 or at rduh.pals-northern@nhs.net.

Local anaesthetic

This may take a few hours to wear off. Please avoid hot food/drink as you may burn yourself. Please also try not to chew your lip or cheek.

Soreness

Biopsy sites may be sore and uncomfortable for a few days. Regular painkillers help make them comfortable. These may be your own or ones we have given you.

You may also get some bruising of your cheek/neck. However, this will settle.

Stitches

These are usually dissolvable. They may last from a couple of days to a few weeks. Your doctor or nurse will tell you which type of stitches you have.

Mouth care

To help reduce swelling and prevent infection, please carry out the following:

- Avoid smoking, exercise, alcohol and very hot food and drink for at least 24 hours.
- Starting the day after your biopsy, rinse your mouth with chlorhexidine that can be purchased from any chemist. Rinse for one minute after each meal, three times a day.
- Brush your teeth as usual.

Biopsy results

The biopsy result will be sent to your dentist and GP and we will send a copy to you. You will be informed if a further appointment is required.

Further information

If you have any problems, please contact **Oral and Maxillofacial Unit** on **01271 322367** or 322477.

For out-of-hours telephone advice, please ring Devon Doctors on 01392 823682.

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern call 01271 314090 or email rduh.pals-northern@nhs.net. You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple.

Have your say

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

Tell us about your experience of our services. Share your feedback on the Care Opinion website www.careopinion.org.uk.

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