



Curettage and Shave

What is it and what can be treated?

The general purpose of **curettage** is to scrape an area free of abnormal tissue.

At the Thorndike it is one of the options used to treat the some benign skin conditions such as naevi (moles), pyogenic granuloma and actinic keratosis and seborrheic warts.

A blade is used to **shave** off some skin abnormalities such as large skin tags, seborrheic keratosis, papillomatous melanocytic naevi, cutaneous horns, hyperkeratotic solar keratosis.

What will I feel and be aware of?

Both procedures are carried out under local anesthesia (a small injection into the skin that stings) to reduce discomfort. During the procedure you will feel pressure but not pain. Cautery may be applied to stop bleeding. You will not feel this but you may notice an unusual smell.

Risks

As with every type of surgical procedure, there is a risk of infection and bleeding. Precautions are taken to minimise these risks.

Some skin problems may recur.

A scar will be left.

Sometimes there may be temporary or permanent nerve damage leading to altered sensation in the area that was operated on.

What will happen afterwards?

After the procedure, you are advised to keep the wound clean, dry and uncovered. You can wash the treated area but do not soak it and we advise you not to go swimming until the area has healed.

You may need to use your usual painkiller for discomfort occurring once the local anaesthetic has worn off.

The treated area should be protected from direct sunlight.

The scab will peel away in about 10-14days- do not try to pick it off. Under the scab will be an area of redness which will fade over time. If the area starts to bleed then apply pressure with gauze or tissue.
