**Minor Surgery:**

***What happens when I come for the procedure?***

All our procedures in the Minor Surgery Clinic are performed under local anaesthetic. This numbs the area we will be operating on and it means you will be awake during the procedure.

Local anaesthetic injections cause a slight stinging discomfort which will last for a few seconds. The local anaesthetic removes pain sensation by making the surrounding area numb. Despite this you might be aware of touch and pulling sensations. The numbness from the anaesthetic will normally last for a couple of hours. The procedure only takes 5-10 min

After the local anaesthetic has been injected, the lesion will be removed  
by shaving the lesion to leave a flat wound. The procedure produces a graze wound which usually will heal in 2-6 weeks depending on the body site.

***Will there be a scar?***

All skin surgery will leave some form of scar. Initially, this could resemble a superficial burn or deep graze but eventually leaves a flat white scar, although the type of scar often depends on the procedure, your racial background and the body site. Sometimes in areas, especially on the upper back, shoulders and chest, scars can become raised, thickened and sore or itchy. These are known as hypertrophic or keloid scars.

***Will there be any pain?***

This often depends on the operation site but after most procedures there is little pain. Large wounds or those in areas subject to pressure (i.e. the foot) or where there is a lot of movement (i.e. the shoulder) can be more uncomfortable. Most pain is controlled by simple analgesia (pain relief) such as paracetamol or ibuprofen.

***After Surgery, What else should I expect?***

All skin surgery inevitably cuts small nerve fibres and this can result in numbness or pins and needles around the operation site. This change in sensation can last for a few weeks or occasionally months. Often wounds on the lower legs can take some time to heal especially in older people or people with poor circulation

Wound infections are an uncommon but recognised risk of skin surgery and should be treated as soon as possible with antibiotics. Heat, pain, redness and swelling around the site 4-5 days after surgery could be a sign of wound infection. There can be some bleeding after surgery although this is normally minor.