

Patient Education Handout: Skin Tag Removal

- A skin tag is an overgrowth of normal skin that is commonly found in areas of high friction such as the groin, armpits, neck, and upper trunk.
- Skin tags can develop on anyone but are more common as people age.
- Skin tags are often removed because they cause irritation to the patient by catching on clothing or jewelry, or for cosmetic effect. There is no harm for skin tags to be left in place.
- Skin tags may reappear at the site they were originally removed.
- You received an anesthetic agent to numb a specific area of your body so the skin tag could be removed without causing pain.
- The numbing effects will wear off in approximately 4 to 6 hours.
- The area around the wound may appear and feel swollen. This will slowly resolve as the anesthetic agent is absorbed by the body.
- The skin around the wound may appear pale or white in color. This will resolve as the anesthetic agent is absorbed.
- As the anesthetic agent wears off, you may experience pain at the site and may take an oral analgesic (such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen) as directed by your health care provider.

You may take:

- Acetaminophen ____ mg to ____ mg every ____ to ____ hours for ____ day(s) as needed
- Ibuprofen ____ mg to ____ mg every ____ to ____ hours for ____ day(s) as needed
- Keep the wound clean and dry.
- Redness to the site is common and will lessen over time.
- Monitor for signs and symptoms of infection: wound tenderness, redness greater than 1 cm from wound edge, pus, severe pain, and return to the clinic for seek care from another health care provider.
- Return to the clinic for re-examination of the wound in ____.

