

# Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

## Laser excision of mouth lesion

This leaflet has been designed to improve your understanding of any forthcoming treatment and contains answers to many of the commonly asked questions. If you have any other questions that the leaflet does not answer or would like further explanation please ask your surgeon.

### Why do I need laser treatment?

You have an area inside your mouth that needs removing. The surgeon that has seen you has decided that using a laser would be the best treatment for you. A laser has many advantages over other types of surgery. For example, it tends to produce less bleeding, swelling and pain.

### What does the treatment involve?

Laser treatment usually takes place under a general anaesthetic, ie you will be put to sleep completely. While you are asleep your surgeon will remove the affected area in your mouth with the laser. The laser may vapourize the affected area, or be used to cut the lesion out. If the area being removed is cancerous or pre-cancerous, then some apparently normal tissue surrounding the area will be removed for safety.

### How will I feel after the treatment?

Although laser treatment tends to be less painful than other forms of surgery, you will still have some discomfort. Your doctor will arrange painkillers for you.

### Will there be much bleeding?

- The wound produced by laser surgery tends to bleed less than other sorts of wounds. Immediately following surgery the area will look charred, this is normal.
- If the area oozes or bleeds following surgery it can usually be stopped by applying pressure over the area for at least 10 minutes with a rolled up handkerchief or swab. If the bleeding does not stop please contact the hospital on 01223 245151 and ask to speak to the oral surgeon on call.

### When can I return to work?

This largely depends on your job and how you feel after the procedure. Most people require a week or so off work.

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## Are there any other things I should do?

- On the day of surgery you should avoid rinsing your mouth out vigorously as this may cause bleeding.
- You should clean your teeth as normally as possible but be careful in the area close to the laser wound.
- If you find that food sticks to the wound then the area can be gently rinsed with a mouthwash or warm salt water (dissolve a teaspoon of kitchen salt in a cup of warm water) commencing on the day after surgery.

## How long will the laser wound take to heal?

The wound may look quite large immediately following surgery but it heals remarkably quickly. After a week or so you will notice a yellow or white slough appearing over the area. This is normal and does not mean it is infected.

In all, it will take about four weeks for the laser wound to heal. By the end of this time it will appear almost normal since the surrounding skin of the mouth will grow over it to produce a pink appearance.

## Will I need another appointment?

A review appointment will be arranged to see you to check the healing of the wound. Any tissue removed at the time of surgery will be routinely looked at under a microscope and the results of this biopsy will be discussed with you when you return for your outpatient follow up appointment.

## Adapted from:

British Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.

<http://www.baoms.org.uk/>



We are currently working towards a smoke free site. Smoking is only permitted in the designated smoking areas.

For advice and support in quitting, contact your GP or the free NHS stop smoking helpline on 0800 169 0 169

### Help with this leaflet:



If you would like this information in another language, large print or audio format, please ask the department to contact Patient Information: 01223 216032 or [patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

### Polish

Jeżeli chciałbyś uzyskać te informacje w innym języku, w dużej czcionce lub w formacie audio, poproś pracownika oddziału o kontakt z biurem Informacji Pacjenta (Patient Information) pod numerem telefonu: 01223 216032 lub pod adresem [patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

### Portuguese

Se precisar desta informação noutra língua, em impressão de letras grandes ou formato áudio, por favor peça ao departamento que contacte a secção de Informação aos Doentes (Patient Information) pelo telefone 01223 216032 ou através do e-mail [patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

### Arabic

إذا كنت تود الحصول على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، بالأحرف الكبيرة أو بشكل شريط صوتي، يمكنك أن تطلب من القسم الاتصال بمعلومات المريض على الرقم: 01223216032 أو عبر البريد الإلكتروني: [patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

### Cantonese

如您需以另一語言版本、特大字體或錄音形式索取本資料，請要求部門聯絡病人諮詢服務：電話 01223 216032，電郵地址 [patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

### Turkish

Eğer bu bilgileri başka bir dilde veya büyük baskılı veya sesli olarak isterseniz, lütfen bulunduğunuz bölümdeki görevlilere söyleyin Hasta Bilgilendirme servisini arasinlar: 01223 216032 veya [patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

### Urdu

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی دیگر زبان میں، بڑے الفاظ میں یا آڈیو طریقہ سے درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی اس شعبہ سے پیشینٹ انفارمیشن سے ذیل کے ذریعہ رابطہ کرنے کی درخواست کریں: 01223 216032 یا [patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

### Bengali

আপনি যদি এই তথ্য অন্য কোন ভাষায়, বড় অক্ষরে বা অডিও রেকর্ডিং পেতে চান তাহলে 'প্যাশেন্ট ইনফরমেশান' এর সঙ্গে 01223 216032 নম্বরে ফোন করে বা [patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk) ঠিকানায় ই-মেইল করে যোগাযোগ করার জন্য ডিপার্টমেন্টটিতে অনুরোধ জানান।

### Document history

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