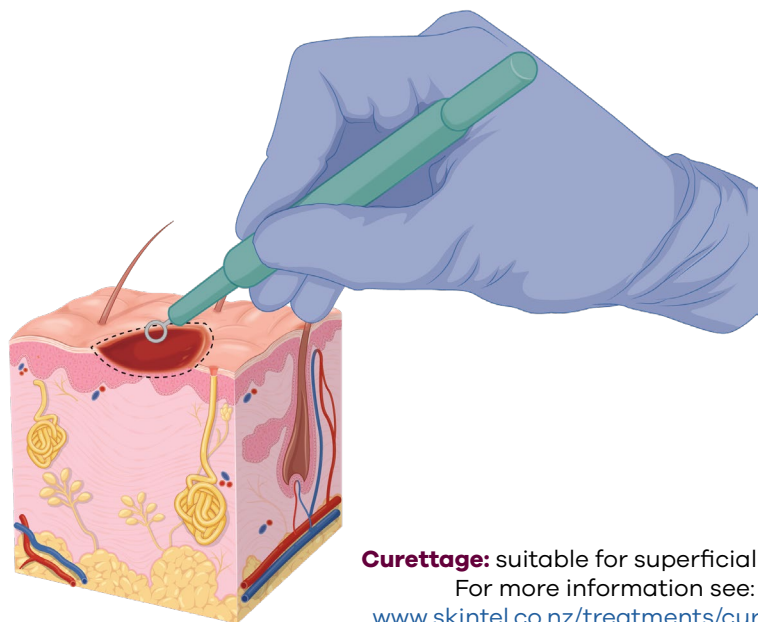


# Curettage & Cautery

**Skintel** Precision Skin Cancer Care

If you have any concerns regarding your treatment, please contact your care team.

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**Curettage:** suitable for superficial lesions.  
For more information see:  
[www.skintel.co.nz/treatments/curettage](http://www.skintel.co.nz/treatments/curettage)

## Curettage is a superficial procedure that can be thought of as scraping a lesion.

It is performed with the use of local anaesthetic. Tissue obtained from the curettage can be sent to the laboratory for tissue analysis, however, there are some limitations to the analysis of curettage samples.

A key advantage of a curettage is that there is minimal downtime after the procedure as the wound is superficial and not stitched.

A range of lesions can be biopsied or treated with curettage including seborrhoeic keratoses, actinic keratoses, skin cancers and many others.

There are also different reasons for a curettage including removal for cosmetic, nuisance or symptomatic reasons. Sometimes a curettage biopsy is taken to obtain a tissue diagnosis or may be performed to

debulk a large painful skin cancer before a formal excision can be undertaken. Depending on the context, curettage may be followed by diathermy where it is called curettage and electrodesiccation/cautery (C&E or C&C).

## Histological Analysis

If a sample has been sent for analysis, it can sometimes take up to three or four weeks for results to be reported. Unfortunately, this duration is outside of our control as pathology is reported by the public hospital system.

## Recovery Process

After the procedure there will be a superficial ulcer (depression) of the skin where the lesion was treated. A dressing will normally be applied and the wound will gradually crust and heal over a few days to weeks. Once a crust has formed, the dressing can be removed. There are no stitches to be removed from the wound.

Application of white soft paraffin (WSP or Vaseline) may help reduce the amount of crust formation and can improve the cosmetic outcome.

A superficial curettage will often heal without scarring, whereas deeper procedures will heal with a pale scar that may be slightly depressed.

Sometimes there will be discolouration of the area.

## Complications

It is normal to experience mild discomfort in the first few days following treatment. However, if the wound becomes red, swollen, or hot to touch, it may indicate that the wound is infected. If this occurs, please contact your care team for further advice.

If the lesion recurs you may need a further curettage or an alternative treatment.

Wound check appointment(s):

## Notes