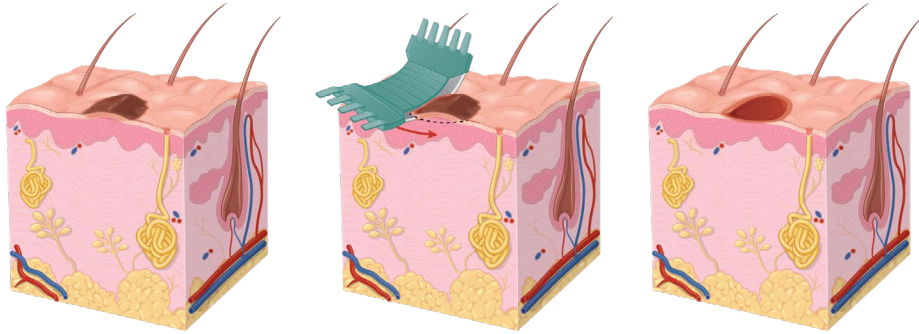


# Shave Biopsy/ Excision

**Skintel** Precision  
Skin Cancer  
Care

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

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**Shave:** A superficial procedure. For more information see:  
[www.skintel.co.nz/treatments/shave-excision](http://www.skintel.co.nz/treatments/shave-excision)

## A shave procedure, often called a shave excision, shave biopsy or saucerisation is a superficial surgical procedure.

Shaves are normally performed with local anaesthetic. Tissue obtained from the shave can be sent to the laboratory for tissue analysis, however information on lesion depth will not be provided.

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

A range of lesions can be treated or biopsied with a shave including seborrhoeic keratoses, actinic keratoses, skin cancers and many others. There are also different reasons for a shave including removal for cosmetic, nuisance or

symptomatic reasons. Sometimes a shave biopsy is taken to obtain a tissue diagnosis. Alternatively a shave may be performed to debulk a large painful skin cancer before a formal excision can be undertaken. Recently, shaves have been used more commonly to biopsy pigmented lesions (moles) that are suspicious for melanoma – however, shaves must be done with care when used for this reason.

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 graze or ulcer (depression) of the skin where the lesion was treated. A dressing will normally be applied.

The wound will gradually crust and heal over days to weeks. After 2-3 days, or 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) can help reduce the amount of crust formation and may improve the cosmetic outcome.

A superficial shave 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 shave or an alternative treatment.

### Wound check appointment(s):

## Notes