**Contact Information**

**Name: Rhonda Troughton Orthodontic Secretary**

Contact Number: 01553 613855

**Name: Orthodontic / ENT reception**

Contact Number:01553 613613 extension 3577

**Name: DCT for Oral Surgery and Orthodontics**

Contact number: 01553 613613 ask for the on call doctor in oral surgery.

**Oral and Maxillofacial**

**Department**

**Oral (Mouth) Biopsy**

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**Feedback**

We appreciate and encourage feedback. If you need advice or are concerned about any aspect of care of treatment, please speak to a member of staff or contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS):

**Telephone:** 01553 613351 or 01553 613343  
**Email:** pals@qehkl.nhs.uk  
**Letter:** PALS, The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King’s Lynn NHS Foundation Trust, Gayton Road, King’s Lynn PE30 4ET

The Trust endeavours to ensure that the information given here is accurate and impartial.

**Oral (Mouth) Biopsy**This leaflet is to help understand any forthcoming treatment. It contains answers to man of the commonly asked questions. If you have any other questions or would like further explanation, please ask

**What Is A Biopsy?**

* A procedure where a small piece of tissue is removed from an area so it can be looked at under a microscope
* It may aim to remove an area completely (excisional). This is usually only appropriate for small lumps, swellings and ulcers
* Occasionally a small piece of an abnormal area is removed to confirm a diagnosis ( Incisional)

**How Is It Done?**

* Most of the time biopsy’s are done under a local anaesthetic – injections to numb the area
* The anaesthetic takes a couple of minutes to work and means the procedure will be painless
* The biopsy usually leaves a small hole which requires stitching – most of the time dissolvable stitches are used and these can take 2 weeks to disappear

**Is there much Soreness or Swelling**After the Anaesthetic wears off there maybe a little pain or swelling, it is necessary to take simple painkillers (ibuprofen/paracetamol). Discomfort usually only lasts a few days

**Will There Be Much Bleeding?**

Although there maybe a little bleeding at the time of the biopsy, this usually stops quickly. If the wound is stitched it is unlikely to be a problem. Should the site bleed again once you are home this can usually be stopped by applying pressure over the area for 20 minutes with a rolled up swab or handkerchief. If the bleeding does not stop please contact the oral surgery department

**When Can I Return To Work?**

This is dependent on your job, and how you feel after the procedure. Most people are able to return to work later the same day

**Are there Any Things I should Do When I get Home?**

* Be careful not to bite numb areas of your mouth
* On the day of surgery you should avoid rinsing your mouth out vigorously as this may cause bleeding
* Do not Smoke as this delays healing and risks infection
* Clean your teeth gently including teeth next to the site of the biopsy
* Gently rinse the area with a warm salt water mouth rinse commencing the day after the biopsy (Dissolve a teaspoon of kitchen salt in a cup of warm water)

**Will I Need Another Appointment?**

Since the stitches dissolve a review appointment is not always necessary. However you may be given one so the results of your biopsy can be discussed