



BIOPSY ADVICE SHEET

If your dentist informs you that he would like to carry out a biopsy, this may seem a little daunting or even frightening. However, there is no need to be alarmed and simply means that he would like to take a specimen of skin from your cheek or tongue for further examination.

The dentist will apply some anaesthetic cream before “numbing up” the area with local anaesthetic. This may sting a little but should not be painful. Your dentist will remove the affected area together with a little of the surrounding tissue using an oval shaped incision. This will allow the laboratory to check the area thoroughly. Sutures will then be inserted and will remain in place for approximately 10-14 days.

You may be advised to rinse with salt water to assist with healing and to ensure that the area remains free from infection. Painkillers may be taken if required. A follow up appointment will normally be arranged before leaving the practice to allow your dentist to remove the stitches and assess healing. You may wish to have a friend or relative with you on the day of the biopsy although you will normally be able to drive or use public transport without difficulty following the procedure.

There may be some swelling and discomfort following surgery. Care should be taken when eating and drinking and it is advisable to eat only soft foodstuffs in the first few days following surgery. Very hot drinks should also be avoided and it may be more comfortable to chew on the opposite side of the mouth. It is usually possible to return to a normal diet within a few days of surgery.

If you have any questions or concerns, your dentist will be more than happy to discuss these with you.

