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EXCISIONAL BIOPSY OF THE HEAD AND NECK AREA

WHY DO I NEED SURGERY?

The purpose of this surgery is to remove a growth from the head or neck region and to confirm the diagnosis of a possible cancer. Oftentimes the biopsy is not warranted because it leaves a bad scar and gives a rather uncertain diagnosis. For the purpose of getting the most accurate diagnosis, the doctor will recommend an excisional biopsy of that area.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING SURGERY?

This procedure can be done under general anesthesia or IV sedation. A lot of it depends on the pain tolerance of the patient. This can be discussed with the anesthesiologist right before the surgery and depending on your nervousness and your level of tolerance the procedure may be done under IV sedation or general anesthesia. During the surgery, whether you chose to go with IV sedation or general anesthesia, an incision will be made, the mass removed and then the area will be reapproximated with sutures. There will be a dressing applied to this area and the doctor will explain to you and your family how to care for this until the postoperative visit.

WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER SURGERY?

After surgery, the doctor will explain in a step by step fashion how to care for the wound site. Usually there will be Steri-Strips placed over this area, which should remain in place until removed by the doctor at your postoperative visit. If you do have a drain in that area, the doctors or nurses will explain how to care for these. The drain will be placed to remove any fluid from the surgical area at this area.

WHAT ARE POSSIBLE RISKS AND COMPLICATIONS OF THE SURGERY?

Any type of surgery under whether under general anesthesia or IV sedation, there are classic reactions to include drug reactions, breathing difficulties and even death. However, with any type of skin incisions there could be excessive scar tissue as well a keloid formation and hemorrhage. If these have occurred, we may have to excise the area one more time to provide the proper closure in this area. Again, all in all this is a fairly common operation.

If you have any further questions after having carefully read the above information, please feel free to discuss it with me in your preoperative evaluation, prior to any surgery. Remember, there are no dumb questions! We want you to be fully informed and comfortable prior to your surgery. Please bring a friend or family member to the preoperative visit. **THIS IS MANDATORY.** Please sign and return this form to our office when you come for your preoperative visit.

On the day of surgery, please bring a friend or family member with you for transportation purposes. THIS IS MANDATORY.

Respectfully yours,

JAMES J. LEE, M.D., F.A.C.S.

I understand the above information and consent to the surgery.

Patient Signature

Date

Patient Name-Printed