

ADVICE TO PATIENTS HAVING REMOVAL OF ANAL SKIN TAGS

This procedure involves the removal of skin tags or polyps at the opening to the anal canal. The tags or polyps are removed by excision or electrical diathermy current. If the tags are excised, a dissolvable suture is used to minimise bleeding. The procedure is carried out under sedation so that you will not be aware and local anaesthetic is also used.

What to expect:

- Some pain and discomfort in the anal area when the local anaesthetic wears off. Take the pain tablets you have been prescribed. Also apply 1 cm strip or 'pea size' of Lignocaine gel onto and around the excision sites. This can be done 4-6 times a day or as required. If anal irritation occurs STOP USING GEL
- Warm salt baths can also assist with relieving discomfort.
- The time it will take for the area to heal will depend on the size and number of tags removed. Usually healing will be complete in two to three weeks but it may take longer
- To minimise the risk of infection, keep the area clean by washing carefully each time you shower and patting the area dry or by using a hairdryer.
- The suture will dissolve and parts of the thread may drop off. While the wounds are healing, the suture may feel uncomfortable.



LIGNOCAINE GEL 2%

A Tube of Lignocaine Gel will be provided to you on discharge.

- Apply I cm strip or ipea sizeî of Lignocaine Gel into anal area or area of discomfort 4-6 times per day or as required.
- If anal irritation occurs STOP USINGGEL.
- After using your bowels, clean area thoroughly but gently. Dry well and apply gel as directed

In the unlikely event that you experience any of these symptoms:

- Feel feverish
- Lose large amounts of blood (more than a cupful)
- Have difficulty passing urine
- Experience marked swelling of the anus

Contact GastrotrACT 02 6234 7900 between 8.00am and 5.00pm Or after hours: Contact your General Practitioner, or Present to your local Hospital Emergency Department