

Incision and drainage of Bartholin's abscess under general anaesthetic

Post-operative information

What happens afterwards?

After your procedure you will be observed for some time on the gynaecology and women's surgery ward (M2). The nursing staff will co-ordinate your discharge. Before you can leave, you need to have had something to drink, something to eat and to have passed urine. The nursing staff will also check that your observations such as blood pressure are all normal. A friend or family member will need to escort you home as you have had an anaesthetic.

Your wound will be packed with a ribbon gauze. This may be removed prior to discharge or the nursing staff will organise for your GP practice nurse to change the dressing.

Wound care

Once you get home, the following steps can help:

- Sitting in a soothing bath of warm water
- Keeping the area clean by regular use of a bath, shower or bidet
- Using a cool hair dryer instead of a towel for drying.

Dissolvable stitches are applied to the skin during the procedure; these stitches usually fall out after 10 days. If you are worried about your wound in any way or the stitches don't fall out as they should please go to your GP for advice.

What advice do I need once I go home?

- Ensure someone stays with you overnight post-surgery.
- You may be prescribed antibiotics to take home to reduce the risk of infection. It is important that you complete the course.
- You may experience some pain – if this occurs, you are advised to take normal pain relief, ie paracetamol, ibuprofen.
- Avoid swimming and intercourse for two weeks to reduce the risk of infection and allow the area to heal.

Contact us

You can call the ward for advice at any time on 020 8296 2150. If we feel you need to be examined, then we will advise you to attend your GP or A&E as appropriate.

Please contact your GP or A&E if you experience any of the following:

- Fever
- Any bleeding or discharge
- Redness or swelling to the area
- Increased pain, or
- Just feel unwell.

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Published: January 2017
Review date: January 2019