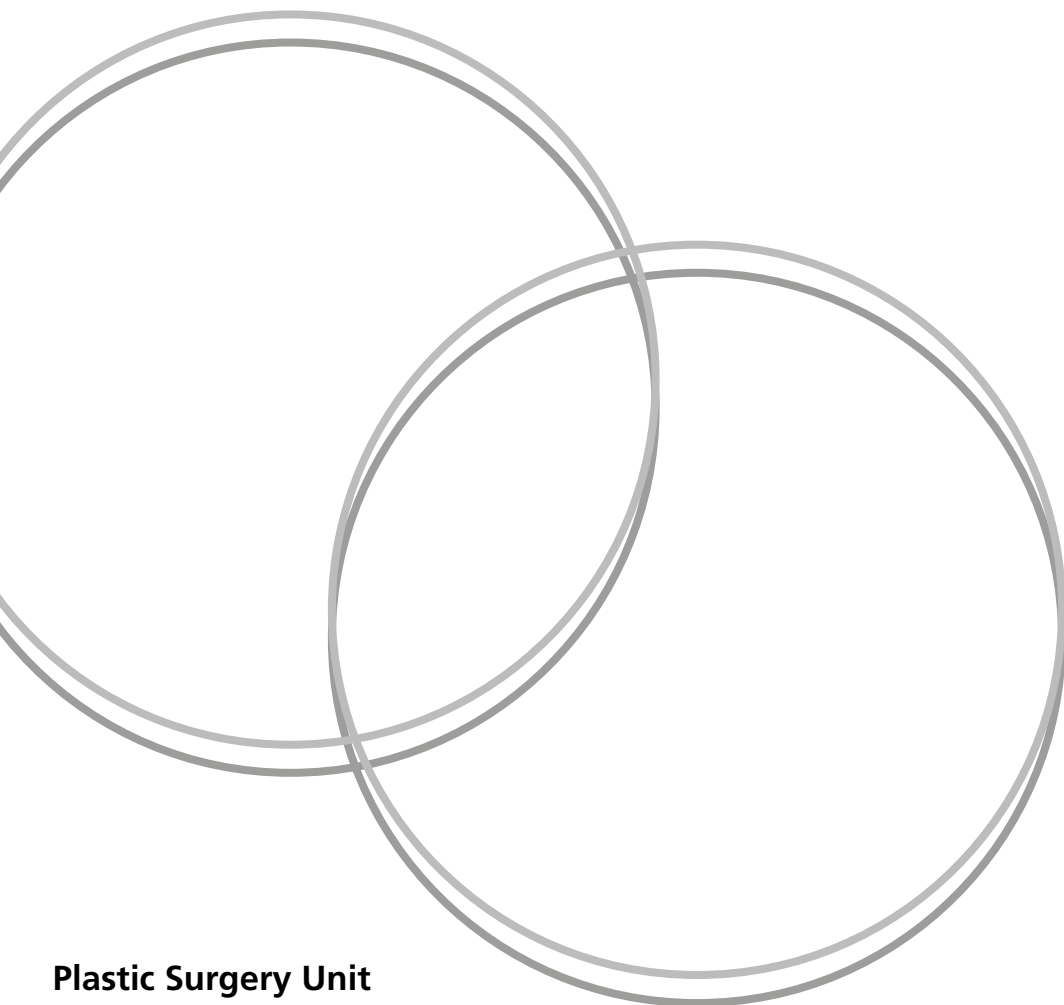


Donor sites for split skin grafts

Information for patients



Patient information leaflet for care of donor sites dressed with adhesive retention tape

A donor site is an area from which a shaving of your skin is taken (harvested); this is known as a split skin graft (SSG). A SSG is then applied to a wound, elsewhere on your body to help it heal. The common areas for donor sites are the thigh and upper arm, but it could be the back, buttocks or abdomen.

The dressing you have in place over your donor site is known as adhesive retention tape (Mefix/Hypafix); this has been applied in direct contact with the raw surface of the donor site.

Care of the donor site

- If you have a bandage and gauze over your donor site these can be removed three or more days after your operation. The Mefix/Hypafix tape lies under the bandage and gauze. This is sometimes blood stained but that is not of concern. Oozing from the donor site should stop around this time.
- The tape is thin and easily dried, you are therefore able to shower (not bath) as normal. The tape can be either dried with a hairdryer on a cool setting or you can pat it dry with a clean towel.
- If you find that the wound oozes through the tape, you can simply apply a pad or bandage over the top. If your wound continues to ooze the pad or dressing can be changed as often as necessary by your local practice nurse. **The Mefix/Hypafix should not be disturbed under any circumstances.**
- The donor site tape should be left intact for at least 10 - 14 days and **only removed in the plastic surgery dressing clinic**. The plastic surgery dressing clinic will give you instructions on how to gently trim any loose tape as it works its way off and separates on its own. The donor site may be painful and tight for the first few days after the operation. You may need to take painkillers, such as Paracetamol, at regular intervals, but do not exceed the stated dose of no more than 8 in 24 hours. The donor site is often causes more discomfort than the grafted area.
- If the donor site becomes increasingly painful, starts oozing green/brown 'pus', becomes red, hot to touch or swollen and/or you feel generally unwell in yourself (flu like symptoms) please contact Plastic Surgery Dressing clinic on the number below.

Aftercare of the donor site

If the area has healed when the tape is removed, then no further tape will be required. The area may be bathed and non perfumed moisturiser applied twice daily to the new skin. The cream should be washed off using non-scented soap before the next application, to avoid spots and blackheads forming.

Donor sites will usually heal with minimal scarring and no impairment of sensation.

Protect the donor site from extremes of temperature, total sun block, factor 50, should be used if the newly healed donor site is likely to be exposed to the direct sunlight in the next six months to a year. Typically, once the donor site has healed, the colour of the pink skin will fade to leave skin that might look lighter in colour.

If you have any questions or need any advice please call

Plastic Surgery Dressing Clinic

Tel: **01865 231 173**

between 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Please leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible, the answer phone is checked twice a day, Monday to Friday.

In an emergency please contact your GP or attend the Emergency Department.

Further information

If you would like an interpreter, please speak to the department where you are being seen.

Please also tell them if you would like this information in another format, such as:

- Easy Read
- large print
- braille
- audio
- electronic
- another language.

We have tried to make the information in this leaflet meet your needs. If it does not meet your individual needs or situation, please speak to your healthcare team. They are happy to help.

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Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

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