

The Horton General Hospital

# Bascom operation

Information for patients



## Bascom operation

This procedure, may also be called “cleft closure” or “cleft lift”

This procedure is usually performed if a pilonidal abscess has failed to heal.

The operation involves removing the infected tissue which is often more extensive than it appears on the surface. The operation should take about 45 minutes and is done under a general anaesthetic. The wound is closed in such a way that the deep canyon or “cleft” between the buttocks is eliminated and the scar lies just off the midline. It is thought that both these factors help with wound healing and minimise the risk of the problem coming back.

A temporary drain may be placed under the flap of skin to prevent the accumulation of fluid and is generally removed in 3 days. (Your nurse will give you specific instructions about how to care for the drain and when to have it removed if you have one).

## What to expect

You will most likely experience some discomfort following this procedure and your doctor may prescribe medication to relieve the pain. In some cases an over the counter pain reliever can be an effective treatment for the pain that follows the surgery, such as paracetamol and ibuprofen (advice on how to take pain relief can be found in our leaflet – Information and advice following a general anaesthetic – please ask your nurse for a copy, if one is not provided).

- A pressure dressing may be in place which you can remove 24hours after your surgery. The nurse looking after you will give you specific advice prior to your discharge.
- Keep the wound dry for the following 48 hours.
- Avoid baths but you can shower daily (after 48 hours). Avoid the use of any perfumed products in the surrounding area of surgery. Carefully dry the area using a soft towel or in a safe area a cool hairdryer.
- Replace any wet dressings with a dry one. Your nurse will provide you with a small supply, more can be purchased from a chemist if needed.

- Wear loose cotton underwear, avoiding synthetic materials such as nylon.
- Try to eat foods that are high in fibre, such as fruit and vegetables. This will help to keep your bowel motion soft, resulting in less straining when passing a motion.
- Limit exercise to nothing more than a gentle walk for the following two weeks after surgery.
- Avoid sitting for long periods of time. Try to lie side to side avoiding long periods on your back.
- If you have any concerns please contact your GP

## Sexual intercourse

Both men and women should abstain from sexual intercourse for two weeks after the procedure. Do not insert anything in to your rectum.

## Stitches

Dissolvable stitches (sutures) are usually used. There is no need to have these removed – your body will absorb these over the following weeks.

If you have any non-absorbable stitches your nurse will give you specific instructions about when to have these removed. This can be done at your GP surgery by your practice nurse.

Stitches to be removed.....

## Drain

Sometimes a small suction drain is used to remove any excess fluid in the cavity where the sinus has been removed. Your nurse will give you specific instructions about when to have this taken out and how to care for it. This can be done at your GP surgery by your practice nurse.

Drain to be removed.....

## Follow-up

We usually like to see you again in two weeks' time. The nurse looking after you will advise you if this is any different. The appointment letter will be posted to you.

Follow up appointment for.....

## Complications

May include

- Inflammation (swelling) of the wound – redness of the immediate area around the wound.
- Infection – general feeling of being unwell / high temperature.
- Delayed healing.

If you think that you may be experiencing any of the above please contact your GP.

For specific instructions following a general anaesthetic, information about taking pain relief and emergency contact numbers – please see our separate leaflet – **Information and Advice Following a General Anaesthetic** – your nurse will give you a copy.

If you need an interpreter or need a document in another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01865 221473** or email **PALSJR@ouh.nhs.uk**