

## other information

### surgery accounts

The Foundation is a registered Day Surgery Centre and as a result privately insured patients may claim through their health fund. All patients will be provided with a quote at their preoperative appointment or prior to surgery. Pension and health care card holders may be eligible for reduced fees.

On the day of your appointment, please ensure that you bring along:

- Medicare card / health fund card / health care card
- Pension card / Veterans card

### anticoagulation medication

Please inform our doctors if you take any anticoagulant medication such as Aspirin, Plavix or Warfarin. We require patients taking Warfarin to have an INR blood test 3 days prior to surgery. Please contact the Skin & Cancer Foundation Inc on (03) 9623 9400 with the results prior to surgery. Any fish oil medication acts like blood thinning medications and should be stopped two weeks prior to surgery.

### scar revision

The majority of scars can now be treated very successfully.

We are now offering postoperative highly specialised treatments and new technologies that very successfully improve the appearance of scars.

Ask your doctor or our staff for more information. There is also information available on our website.

### parking

There is metered parking available in the streets close by, in addition to paid secure parking off Pelham (cash only) and Rathdowne Streets.

### accommodation

If you are travelling a long distance, it is advisable to find accommodation and stay the night of your surgery. A number of accommodation options are close to the Foundation and some offer reduced rates. Please contact us for a list.

## help us

You can help us save lives and make a real difference to those suffering other skin diseases.

Your support can help how we are able to treat patients. We need financial support to continue our research, education and the clinical care of patients. People everywhere benefit from our research and education into skin diseases, skin cancers and melanoma.

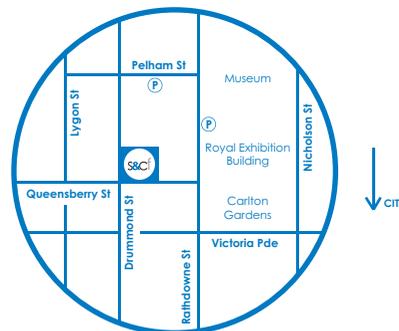
All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. Simply visit our website and click on the donate button.

## make a gift in your will

You can make a gift that provides support for the treatment of those affected by skin diseases and skin cancer that lasts well into the future.

Your gift will have real impact and have a lasting effect. And, it will leave a true legacy in your name.

Leaving the Foundation a gift in your Will is simple to set up, and satisfying to have in order. Call our office now for a confidential discussion with a member of our Corporate Affairs team - 03 9623 9400.



### Skin & Cancer Foundation Inc

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# advanced surgery



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## the skin & cancer foundation inc

The Skin & Cancer Foundation Inc is Australia's leading specialist dermatology centre. It is a not-for-profit organisation specialising in the treatment, education and research of skin disorders.

Established in 1987, the Foundation offers patients peace of mind knowing that their skin is in expert hands. The Foundation provides the best in dermatology industry standards, and professional advice.

In all that we do our values are:

- Excellence
- Innovation
- Respect
- Compassion
- Integrity
- Teamwork
- Accountability

### advanced surgery

On the day of surgery a number of people will be involved in your treatment. These will include 1 principle plastic surgeon or dermatologist and 1-2 other doctors (all of whom may be involved in performing the surgery) and 1-2 nurses.

### surgery duration

Advanced surgery is performed under local anaesthetic, while you are awake. The approximate time for surgery is 1-2 hours, this depends on the complexity of the surgery and also the number of lesions being removed.

Every surgery is different which means that we may sometimes be behind schedule. We will do our best to attend to the surgery on the day, however this is not always possible. Sometimes surgery is too complex for a variety of reasons and is best carried out as an inpatient in a hospital. This will be discussed and planned with you at your preoperative appointment.

### surgery cure rate

Around 95% of tumours are completely removed and cured. A small number of patients may require a second procedure. A 100% cure cannot be guaranteed.

### surgery wound repair

The wound will be repaired in one of several ways. This will be decided at your preoperative appointment, or on the day and explained in detail to you. The repair option chosen aims to give the best possible cosmetic and functional result.



### common surgery repairs

**Direct closure** is a common type of repair and involves stitching the edges of the wound directly together.

**Flap repairs** involve moving nearby skin to fill the wound. This leads to more stitches than you may have anticipated.

**Graft repairs** involve taking skin from another area of the body (donor site). This is usually from a non cosmetic site to minimise scarring. The donor skin is then grafted/ sewn to the wound with stitches.

**Granulation** involves letting the wound heal by itself like a graze. If the wound is allowed to granulate it usually heals in 8 - 10 weeks. Daily dressing changes are required.

### surgery risks and complications

As with all surgeries complications may arise. A list of these complications include:

- Bleeding
- Pain afterwards
- Bruising
- Incomplete removal of cancer
- Infection
- Swelling
- Scarring
- Numbness

Associated risks and complications will be discussed prior to surgery. Please don't hesitate to speak to your doctor about any concerns or questions you may have.

### advanced surgery followup

We require you to come back 1-2 weeks after surgery for a wound review and/or removal of your stitches. A follow up appointment to see the doctor after your suture removal is usually required. The pathology results of the lesion will be discussed during one of these appointments. If further treatment is required this will also be discussed. After the wound is healed you will be referred back to your doctor for ongoing surveillance.

### preparation for advanced surgery

The best preparation for your surgery is a good night's sleep, usual breakfast (and lunch if your surgery is scheduled in the afternoon), and regular medications unless advised to withhold them by your prescribing doctor. If you are taking any regular medications, you should take them as normal unless advised to withhold them. You should dress comfortably. You will ideally have someone to drive you home after surgery. Due to the limited space we request that you only bring one companion. Do not bring any valuables or wear unnecessary jewellery. Do not wear makeup if the surgery being carried out is on your face.



### what to expect post surgery

A dressing will be applied after surgery to help reduce bleeding and protect the wound. You will be given verbal and written instructions on wound care and what to do in the event of any complications. You may need time off work or exercise regimes may need to be ceased temporarily. Please discuss any concerns with medical staff.