

**Information sheet: RE-EXCISION OF BREAST**

You have been recommended a re-excision of breast tissue to continue your surgical treatment of breast cancer. The operation is usually performed under general anaesthesia as a day-case.

The surgery is usually performed through the same incision as your previous wide local excision. The skin is closed with internal, absorbable sutures that usually leave an excellent scar that fades with time.

The tissue removed will undergo careful analysis in pathology and the results will be discussed with you at the first consultation after surgery. Depending on the result, further surgery may be required. Of all patients who have a re-excision biopsy, 50 % will require a third operation which will be mastectomy.

**Possible side effects of surgery**

**Surgery:** As with all operations there is a small risk of pain, bleeding and infection following surgery. As this is your second operation you will be given antibiotics to reduce your risk.

**Re-excision:** The breast may be a little swollen initially but this usually settles within 2-3 months. It is common to have some numbness around the wound. It is unlikely that the re-excision will make a great deal of difference to the cosmetic outcome obtained after your recent wide local excision.