



# Understanding Your Local Excision for Skin Cancer

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A local excision is a minor surgical procedure to remove a skin cancer along with a small amount of normal skin around it. The goal is to remove all the cancer cells and confirm this with the pathology lab, giving you peace of mind.



## Pros

- **Excellent cure rate** with complete removal of the skin cancer.
- Pathology confirms if all skin margins are clear for peace of mind.
- Typically produces more **subtle scarring** compared to other methods.



## Cons

- Requires **stitches that will be removed after 10-14 days**.
- **No heavy lifting, gym, or exercise for 2-3 weeks** to prevent wound separation and increased scarring.
- **Linear scar** at the surgery site (may or may not fade with time).
- **Longer recovery period** compared to other treatment options.
- Small risk of bleeding, infection, or wound opening.

## What to Expect

- Performed in the office using local numbing injections.
- The affected area is cut out, and stitches are used to close the wound.
- A wound dressing is applied, and you can go home right afterward.

\*\*\*Disclaimer: This summary is intended for general information only. It does not include every detail about the procedure. All specific instructions, risks, and expectations will be discussed fully with you in the office at the time of your visit.

## Aftercare and Restrictions

- Keep the area clean and change bandages with antibiotic ointment **twice per day**.
- **Showering is okay after the first 24 hours** — let water and soap run gently over the area, pat dry, and apply a new bandage. Avoid direct water pressure on the wound.
- **No soaking or submersion** in any water, including baths, pools, or the ocean.
- **Avoid heavy lifting, stretching, running, gym, or bending** until cleared by your provider.
- Watch for redness, drainage, or swelling and report any concerns.
- Use sunscreen and gentle scar care to help the area heal smoothly.