



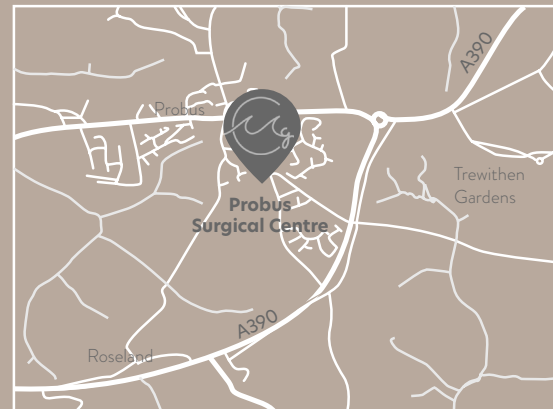
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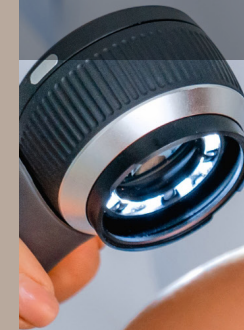
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Cornwall Medical Group is a sister company of Probus Surgical Centre; Company No. 13540921 registered in England & Wales. Registered Office: Probus Surgical Centre, Tregony Road, Probus, Truro, Cornwall, TR2 4JZ.

MINOR SURGICAL PROCEDURES **SKIN TAGS**



Cornwall Medical Group (CMG) is an organic progression of the hugely successful Probus Surgical Centre, renowned as the county's leading NHS and private surgical centre, providing specialised day case procedures in a primary healthcare setting since 1995.

At CMG, we are proud to offer state-of-the-art technology and facilities alongside expert practitioners.

We offer a range of services including:

- ✓ Specialist day case procedures including vasectomies, hernia repair, cataract surgery and adult circumcision
- ✓ Pain and Injury Clinic to treat conditions including osteoarthritis, knee, back and shoulder pain
- ✓ Medicated weight-management services
- ✓ Skin and Hair Rejuvenation including wrinkle relaxation, dermal fillers, skin boosters, results-driven facials and PRP Therapy.



CORNWALL MEDICAL GROUP

Cornwall Medical Group provides a high-quality private service for the removal of various lesions, including moles, cysts, lipomas, warts and skin tags that are not covered by the NHS.

The following patient information will guide you in the diagnosis and treatment of skin tags.



Should you need further information, please call the clinic on 01872 392087.

SKIN TAG



Skin tags are small growths that hang off your skin. They are common and harmless but can be removed if they're bothering you.

Skin tags are small, soft, skin-coloured growths on your skin. They can vary in colour and size, from a few millimetres to a few cm wide. Skin tags tend to grow in the skin folds, where the skin rubs against itself, such as on the neck, armpits or groin. They can also grow on the eyelids or under the folds of the buttocks.

Skin tags can look like warts, but skin tags are usually:

- Smooth and soft (warts tend to be rougher with an irregular surface)
- Knobbly and hang off the skin (warts are usually slightly raised or flat)
- Not contagious (warts spread very easily, so a sudden outbreak or cluster of growths is more likely to be warts).
- Skin tags are made of loose collagen fibres and blood vessels surrounded by skin. Collagen is a type of protein found throughout the body.

Both men and women can develop skin tags. They tend to occur in older people and people who are obese or have type 2 diabetes.

Pregnant women may also be more likely to develop skin tags because of changes in their hormone levels. Some people develop them for no apparent reason.

Because skin tags tend to grow in the skin folds, where the skin rubs against itself, they tend to affect overweight people who have excess folds of skin and skin chafing.

Skin tags are harmless and do not usually cause pain or discomfort. However, you may consider having skin tags removed if they're affecting your self-esteem, or if they snag on clothing or jewellery and bleed.

You will usually need to pay to have this done privately. This is because skin tag removal is regarded as cosmetic surgery, which is rarely available through the NHS.

Sometimes, skin tags fall off on their own if the tissue has twisted and died from a lack of blood supply.

DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT

Skin tags can easily be burnt or frozen off in a similar way to wart removal. They can also be surgically removed using local anaesthetic.

Freezing or burning skin tags can cause irritation and temporary skin discolouration. The skin tag may not fall off, with further treatment needed.

Surgical removal has the advantage of removing the skin tag completely. The base is then cauterised to stop any bleeding. A small scab will form and will fall off after a few days.

If your skin tag is small with a narrow base, you can try to remove it yourself by tying off the base of the skin tag with dental floss or cotton to cut off its blood supply and make it drop off (ligation). Do not attempt to remove large skin tags yourself as they can bleed heavily.

Your surgeon will advise you as to which removal method is

best. Histology is not usually necessary as diagnosis of skin tags is straightforward.

AFTERCARE AND COMPLICATIONS

Keep the area clean and dry; if there is any minor oozing from the base of where the skin tag was, simply apply some pressure for 10-20 minutes with a clean gauze.

Complications are rare, although skin tags can recur in the same place or elsewhere.

Aftercare and possible complications will be discussed in your initial consultation and again following the procedure.

Keloid scarring is a possibility; this is abnormal healing where the resulting scar is large and raised and dark. They are more common in certain parts of the body like the ears, neck, shoulders, back and chest. People of African, Asian and Hispanic descent are more commonly affected. Keloid scars are difficult to treat.

Aftercare and possible complications will be discussed in your initial consultation and again following the procedure.

Did you know?

CMG offers a range of treatments for skin and hair rejuvenation for conditions including rosacea, hyperpigmentation, acne, scarring, poor quality skin, hair or scalp and fine lines and wrinkles.

Visit cornwallmedicalgroup.com for more information.

