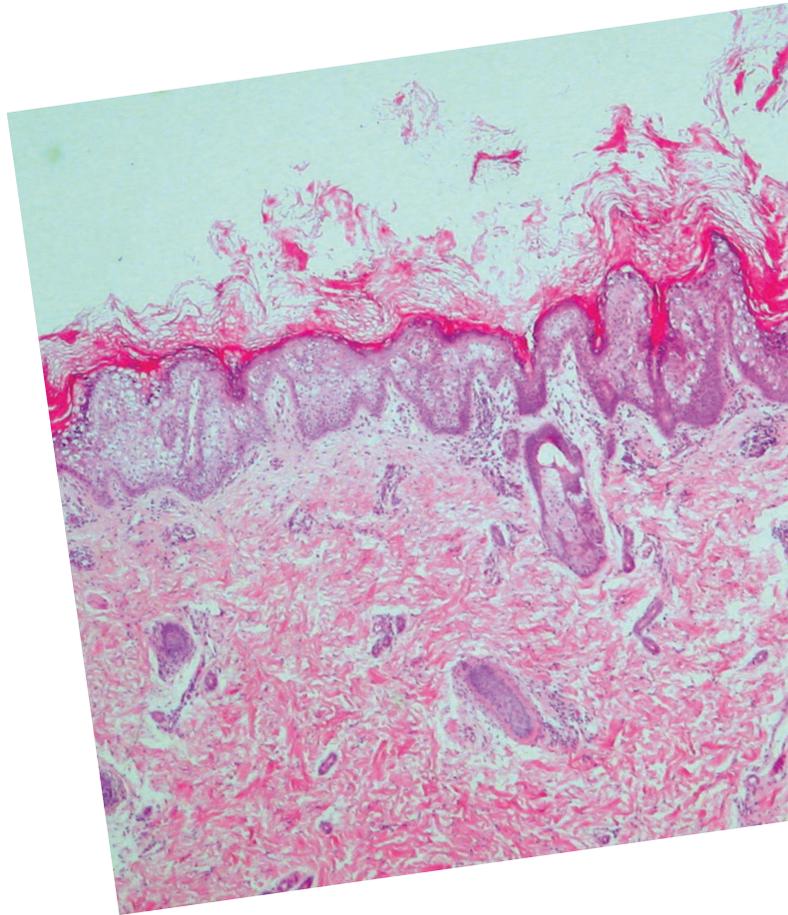


# Skin Biopsy



The Dermatology service offers specialist care to patients with skin conditions such as acne, blistering skin, drug-related rash, eczema, hair and nail-related problems, pigmented skin lesions (moles, seborrhoeic warts, solar lentigo), psoriasis, skin cancer, skin infections (viral warts, shingles, impetigo) and urticaria. Specialist outpatient clinics are offered at the Ng Teng Fong General Hospital (NTFGH) and Jurong Medical Centre. Inpatient dermatological care is offered at NTFGH. We also perform skin biopsy, skin-scraping and nail-clipping for mycology, dermoscopy of pigmented lesions, removal of benign skin lesions (skin tags, moles), excision of malignant skin tumours, cryotherapy and carbon dioxide laser for stubborn viral warts.



## What is a skin biopsy?

A skin biopsy is a procedure that involves sampling a small area of your skin for analysis.

This procedure is useful to investigate the cause of certain skin problems and to serve as a guide on the type of treatment options to use.

## Before the procedure

No preparation is required before a skin biopsy.

## During the procedure

Patients will usually lie flat on an examination bed with the area to be biopsied cleansed with an antiseptic solution. Local anaesthetic is injected into the area to minimise discomfort during the procedure.

## Types of skin biopsy

- Punch biopsy
  - Used to remove a small disc of skin (usually 4mm in diameter)
  - One or more stitches are used in this procedure
- Shave biopsy/Curettage and Cautery
  - Used to remove raised skin growths. The base of the wound is cauterised (burnt) to prevent further bleeding
  - Stitches are not required for this procedure
- Excision biopsy
  - A small ellipse of skin is taken to remove a skin growth of concern.
  - Several stitches are required to close up the wound.

## After the procedure

Hospitalisation is not required for skin biopsies. Keep your wound area dry and change your dressing after 48 hours.

Further dressings may be required to keep the wound clean until it heals completely. If stitches were used, they will be removed one to two weeks after your procedure, depending on the type of procedure.

Avoid strenuous activity until your wound has healed completely. This prevents you from adding strain to your operation site.



## Potential complications

A skin biopsy is a minor procedure that is very safe.

Risks of the procedure include:

- Bleeding (rare)
- Scarring and post-inflammatory pigmentation
- Wound infection (red and painful with pus discharge)

Should you develop an infection, oral or topical antibiotics can help to improve your condition.

If bleeding occurs, apply pressure to the wound. If bleeding continues, please visit our clinic or the Emergency Department immediately.

## For more information

### Ng Teng Fong General Hospital and Jurong Community Hospital

1 Jurong East St 21, Singapore 609606

General enquiries: 6716 2000 Fax: 6716 5500

[www.juronghealth.com.sg](http://www.juronghealth.com.sg)

### Clinical and appointment line hours (closed on Sundays and public holidays)

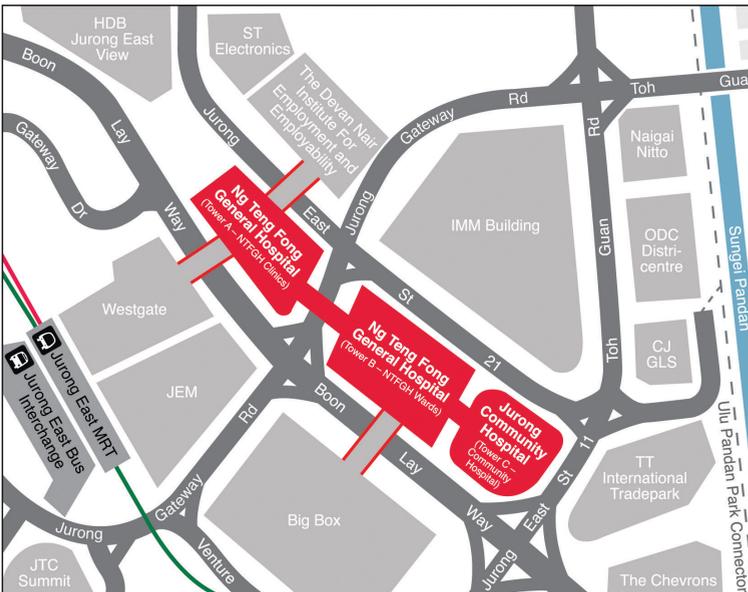
For appointments, please call 6716 2222

Monday - Friday 8.00am - 5.30pm, Saturday 8.00am - 12.30pm

For dental appointments, please call 6716 2233

Monday - Thursday 8.00am - 5.30pm, Friday 8.00am - 5.00pm

## Getting there



### By train

Jurong East MRT Station

### By bus

#### From Jurong East Bus Interchange

SBS 51, 52, 66, 78, 79, 97, 97e, 98, 98M, 105, 143, 143M,  
160, 183, 197, 333, 334, 335, 506

#### Along Boon Lay Way

SBS 99, Private bus service 625

### Disclaimer:

The information in this brochure is meant for educational purposes and should not be used as substitute for medical diagnosis or treatment. Please seek your doctor's advice before starting any treatment or if you have any questions related to your health, physical fitness or medical condition.