

Wide local excision and therapeutic mammoplasty

What is a wide local excision?

A wide local excision involves removing the problem area of your breast and a small amount of surrounding tissue (margin). This is in order to check the tissue for any changes and to tell us about important markers which will help plan the best treatment for you. If the margin is clear from abnormal changes then no more surgery is needed for the breast. However, in a small amount of people the margin is not clear and further surgery will be advised.

What is a therapeutic mammoplasty?

A therapeutic mammoplasty is similar to a wide local excision in that the problem area plus a margin is removed. However, this operation is used to maintain the shape and contour of the breast especially if a relatively large area has to be removed. This breast reshaping is in effect a breast uplift so the breast will appear more youthful. Each operation is individually planned and your surgeon will discuss scar placement with you.

Sometimes surgery to the other breast is required, usually at a later date, with the aim to achieve symmetry. All surgery is done under general anaesthetic.

How long will I be in hospital?

Normally your operation is performed on the day of admission. It is possible that you could go home the same day or stay overnight.

It is not normally necessary for the surgeon to insert a wound drain during the operation. If a drain is used the ward staff will ensure you know how this will be cared for before you go home.

Bruising may occur within the breast two to three days following your surgery. This is usual and will subside over the next three to four weeks.

When will the steristrips be removed?

The steristrips are usually removed 12 - 14 days after surgery at the Mermaid Centre. Please keep your dressings dry until the steristrips are removed. Wearing a bra will be of benefit and wearing one at night gives support.

The breast tissue removed takes approximately 10 - 12 days to be processed in the laboratory. You will be offered an appointment approximately two weeks after your surgery and your consultant will discuss these results with you then.

Any further treatments will then be discussed with you.