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You are entitled to a copy of any letter we write about you. Please ask if you want one when you come to the hospital.

If you are unhappy with the advice you have been given by your GP, consultant, or another healthcare professional, you may ask for a second (or further) opinion.

The evidence used in the preparation of this leaflet is available on request. Please email: patient.information@salisbury.nhs.uk if you would like a reference list.

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Facial laceration

This leaflet has been designed to improve your understanding of your planned treatment and contains answers to many common questions. If you have any other questions or would like further explanation please ask a member of the medical or nursing staff.

Why do I need treatment?

The doctor who examined you decided that your injury is too big to be taped or glue and will need stitches. You should not feel this as the area will be numbed with a local anaesthetic. The area will stay numb for up to 3 hours. Sometimes the doctor may think it best for you to have a general anaesthetic (while you are asleep).

What does the operation involve?

Once the area is numb the wound will be thoroughly cleaned and stitched with dissolvable (white) and/or non dissolvable (blue or black) stitches. You may have a dressing over the wound.

What can I expect after the operation?

If you have any pain you can take paracetamol and/or ibuprofen. Please follow the instructions on the packet carefully.

The amount of swelling and bruising will vary. Sleeping with an extra pillow will help reduce any swelling.

How do I care for my sutures/stitches?

- dissolvable (white) stitches will disappear on their own in about 1-2 weeks. Very occasionally they don't dissolve and will need to be removed
- non dissolvable (blue or black) stitches need to be removed. Please visit your GP practice in 7 days to have this done.
- keep the wound clean and dry and do not use any face care products on the area.
- get the wound checked if it becomes more painful, becomes redder, starts to leak or smell, you feel unwell or develop a temperature
- apply the CHLORAMPHENACOL ointment you have been given twice a day over the stitches until they are removed.

Will I need another appointment?

You will need to go to your GP to have your stitches removed but should not need to return to the hospital. However if you have any concerns or problems then please contact the ORAL SURGERY DEPARTMENT 8am - 5pm Mon to Fri **01722 336262 Ext 3255**.