



York and Scarborough  
Teaching Hospitals  
NHS Foundation Trust

# Potential complications following polyp removal

Information for patients, relatives and carers

① For more information, please contact:

**Endoscopy Unit**

The York Hospital, Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE,  
Tel: 01904 726694

Scarborough Hospital, Woodlands Drive,  
Scarborough, YO12 6QL  
Tel: 01723 385141



You have had a polyp removed from your bowel.

Hopefully you will be recovering well from your endoscopy and the successful removal of a polyp. Here is a reminder of what potential complications there are to be aware of, how to tell if you may be experiencing them and what to do.

## **Bleeding**

Sometimes people bleed heavily when we remove a polyp. There is often some 'early bleeding' which is usually dealt with at the time of the endoscopy although sometimes there can be a slow ooze of more blood for up to an hour afterwards. You may notice the passage of some bright red blood in your stool. This is to be expected within the first few hours and is either mixed with washing fluid in your bowel or some minor bleeding afterwards. This should settle within one or two hours. If it does not, you may notice the passage of either greater amounts of fresh blood or even some clots up to 14 days after the procedure, known as 'delayed bleeding'.

You may also experience dizziness, clamminess or generally feeling unwell. If this is happening, you must attend the hospital accident and emergency department straight away and we may need to admit you to hospital for observation. Very occasionally people may need a blood transfusion. If the bleeding does not settle you may need a second endoscopy so we can stop the bleeding, or very rarely, an operation.

# Perforation

There is a small possibility that the endoscopy causes a perforation (hole) in your bowel. The chances of this happening are about one in 1,500. Having a polyp removed can increase this risk up to 1 in 150 depending on the size of the polyp. If you develop a bowel perforation you may need an operation to repair, it. If an 'early perforation' is noted during the time of your procedure, you will be informed straight away and should be kept in hospital.

In some cases, the hole can develop a few days after the procedure. This is known as a 'delayed perforation' and is the result of a deep burn to the bowel wall caused by the hot wire loop used. The bowel wall then becomes weakened, and a hole is created. The contents of you bowel can leak out into you abdomen and cause symptoms such as severe pain, sickness or fever. In this situation you should attend the accident and emergency department straight away. You may need to be admitted to hospital to have intra-venous antibiotics or an operation to repair the perforation.

## **Who to contact for information**

You can contact the Endoscopy unit. They can give further guidance:

York Hospital: 01904 726694

Scarborough Hospital: 01723 385141

They are available between 8am and 6pm.

After 6pm, contact the hospital switchboard:

York Hospital: 01904 631313

Scarborough Hospital: 01723 368111

Ask to speak to the on-call surgical registrar.

Alternatively, if you are feeling unwell then you should attend your local emergency department.

## **Tell us what you think of this leaflet**

We hope that you found this leaflet helpful. If you would like to tell us what you think, please contact:

Dr Prashant Kant, Consultant Gastroenterologist,  
The York Hospital, Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE or  
telephone 01904 725584.

## **Teaching, training and research**

Our Trust is committed to teaching, training and research to support the development of health and healthcare in our community. Healthcare students may observe consultations for this purpose. You can opt out if you do not want students to observe. We may also ask you if you would like to be involved in our research.

## **Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)**

PALS offers impartial advice and assistance to patients, their relatives, friends and carers. We can listen to feedback (positive or negative), answer questions and help resolve any concerns about Trust services.

PALS can be contacted on 01904 726262, or email [yhs-tr.patientexperienceteam@nhs.net](mailto:yhs-tr.patientexperienceteam@nhs.net).

An answer phone is available out of hours.



# Leaflets in alternative languages or formats

If you would like this information in a different format, including braille or easy read, or translated into a different language, please speak to a member of staff in the ward or department providing your care.

Patient Information Leaflets can be accessed via the Trust's Patient Information Leaflet website:

[www.yorkhospitals.nhs.uk/your-visit/patient-information-leaflets/](http://www.yorkhospitals.nhs.uk/your-visit/patient-information-leaflets/)

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