

**Go to your GP or your nearest  
Emergency Department immediately if:**

- The wound appears to have re-opened.
- The area looks to be infected (signs include an increase in redness, hot to touch (avoid touching too often with dirty hands), bad smell – pus.
- You are becoming unwell with a fever.
- You are developing a swelling that affects the ability to eat, drink or swallow.

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**Further sources of information**

NHS Choices: [www.nhs.uk/conditions](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions)  
Our website: [www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk](http://www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk)

**Patient Experience Team (PET)**

PET is available to help with any of your compliments, concerns or complaints, and will ensure a prompt and efficient service.

**King’s Mill Hospital:** 01623 672222

**Newark Hospital:** 01636 685692

**Email:** [sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net](mailto:sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net)

If you would like this information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call the Patient Experience Team on 01623 672222 or email [sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net](mailto:sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net).

This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you. External websites may be referred to in specific cases. Any external websites are provided for your information and convenience. We cannot accept responsibility for the information found on them. If you require a full list of references (if relevant) for this leaflet, please email [sfh-tr.patientinformation@nhs.net](mailto:sfh-tr.patientinformation@nhs.net) or telephone 01623 622515, extension 6927.

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**INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS**

**Facial wounds**

**Emergency Department**

**King’s Mill Hospital**

Mansfield Road  
Sutton in Ashfield  
Notts NG17 4JL  
Telephone: 01623 622515, extension 2789

**Newark Hospital**

Boundary Road  
Newark  
Notts NG24 4DE  
Telephone: 01636 681681

A facial wound is when there is an injury or break of facial skin. This can include a cut (laceration), scratches (abrasions), grazes or loss of skin or tissue. This can occur following trauma/assault/ bites.

The deeper layers of the skin are exposed and sometimes become dirty because they have touched things like soil, gravel or even animal saliva.

### **Treatment**

Depending on whether the wound is dirty or gaping open the treatment may consist of:

- 1) Cleaning
- 2) Dressing
- 3) Gluing
- 4) Steri-strips
- 5) Stitching (suturing) either under local anaesthetic, under general anaesthetic, using non-dissolvable stitches or using dissolvable stitches.

### **Care following the closure of a facial wound**

If local anaesthetic was used, the area will be numb for a few hours after treatment so be careful not to pull on the stitches. Keep the area dry and clean for a few days after treatment unless advised to apply ointment

If a dressing has been placed on top of the wound, try to keep this clean and dry. The dressing can be replaced or removed if it is visibly dirty.

### **General advice:**

- Dissolvable stitches usually take two to three weeks to breakdown on their own.
- If non-dissolvable stitches were used, these will need to be removed by your GP in about five to seven days.

- Avoid playing or pulling on the stitches.
- If glue was used to close the wound, this will take a few days to dissolve on its own.
- Steri-strips will peel off on their own a few days after they were placed.
- Don't worry if the area is swollen and puffy after the injury for a few days.
- If you are in pain, take painkillers you usually take for a headache or cold. The area might turn grey/white a few days after the injury. This is normal and is often a part of the healing process.

### **Bite injuries:**

- Take antibiotics as directed.
- Keep the wound clean and dry.
- Apply ointment as directed.

