



Where we all
make a difference



The Royal Liverpool
and Broadgreen
University Hospitals
NHS Trust

Patient information

Nipple Reconstruction and Nipple Tattoo

Breast Services

The last stage of your breast reconstruction is to make a new nipple. The new nipple is made in two stages:

- The new nipple is formed using the skin on your reconstructed breast.
- After at least three months, this new nipple will be tattooed to colour match your other nipple.

What is Nipple Reconstruction?

This is a relatively simple operation done under a local anaesthetic. The skin on your reconstructed breast will be numbed by an injection of local anaesthetic. You remain awake.

Local anaesthesia is drug-induced numbness: it may be provided by an anaesthetist, surgeon or other healthcare professional, depending on the technique used.

Unfortunately, local anaesthesia can cause side effects and complications.

Side effects are common, but are usually short-lived: they include nausea, confusion and pain. Complications are rare, but can cause lasting injury: they include awareness, paralysis and death.

If you are worried about any of these risks, please speak to your Consultant or a member of a team.

The site of the new nipple will be marked before your operation and then the skin in that area will be moved and readjusted to create the nipple itself. This usually takes about 45 minutes, and is usually not too painful.

This will be done as a day case, and you can go home the same day after your operation.

Following this small operation a bulky dressing is put in place to protect the nipple, as this should not be squashed for a number of weeks afterwards.

Even though you were not put under a general anaesthetic (unconscious) for this operation, we suggest that you arrange for someone to collect you if possible.

It is probably possible to return to work the day after your operation, but you may feel you need a couple of days to fully recover, and the bulky dressing may be noticeable under your clothes.

Are there any risks or side effects?

You may get some bleeding or fluid leakage from the site of the new nipple.

Occasional simple dressings are needed. The stitches used dissolve so they do not have to be removed.

Nipple Tattoo (see PIF 1049 for more information)

This procedure is performed approximately three months after the nipple reconstruction, as the scars from this need to settle down. This is done at an outpatient appointment with application of local anaesthetic cream, if required, to numb the skin. The colour of the new nipple is matched with the colour of your nipple on the other breast. A light dressing is put on the area following the procedure.

It is probably wise to have the rest of the day off, but you should be able to go to work the following day, although you will have a light dressing in place and you should keep this area dry for approximately two weeks

Further Appointments

Before you leave you will be given an appointment to come back to a follow up clinic shortly after your operation, so we can check your progress.

Further information

The Breast Care Nurses

Tel: 0151 706 2927 (24 hour answerphone)

Text phone Number: 18001 0151 706 2927

There are many local support groups, please ask your Breast Care Nurse.

Author: Breast Care Nurse Team

Review date: March 2021

All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

يمكن توفير جميع المعلومات المتعلقة بالمرضى الموافق عليهم من قبل ائتمان المستشفى عند الطلب بصيغ أخرى، بما في ذلك لغات أخرى وبطرق تسهل قراءتها وبالحروف الطباعية الكبيرة وبالصوت وبطريقة برايل للمكفوفين وبطريقة مون والكترونياً.

所有經信托基金批准的患者資訊均可以其它格式提供，包括其它語言、易讀閱讀軟件、大字體、音頻、盲文、穆恩體 (Moon) 盲文和電子格式，敬請索取。

در صورت تمایل میتوانید کلیه اطلاعات تصویب شده توسط اتحادیه در رابطه با بیماران را به اشکال مختلف در دسترس داشته باشید، از جمله به زبانهای دیگر، به زبان ساده، چاپ درشت، صوت، خط مخصوص کوران، مون و بصورت روی خطی موجود است.

زانیاری پیوندیدار بهو نهخوشانهی له لایمن تراستهوه پامند کر اون، ننگر داوا بکرنیت له فورماتیکانی تر دا بریتی له زمانهکاتی تر، نیز ی رید (هاسان خویندنهوه)، چاپی گموره، شریتی دنگگ، هیل ی موون و نملیکترونیکی همیه.

所有经信托基金批准的患者信息均可以其它格式提供，包括其它语言、易读阅读软件、大字体、音频、盲文、穆恩体 (Moon) 盲文和电子格式，敬请索取。

Dhammaan warbixinta bukaanleyda ee Ururka ee la oggol yahay waxaa marka la codsado lagu heli karaa nuskhado kale, sida luqado kale, akhris fudud, far waaweyn, dhegeysi, farta braille ee dadka indhaha la', Moon iyo nidaam eletaroonig ah.