

## **Incision and Drainage of Skin Abscess**

### **Introduction:**

Incision and drainage is an operation to drain out the infected material of a skin abscess through a cut wound. Skin abscess is a localized collection of pus under the infected skin. It is usually associated with bacterial infection and sometimes fungal infection. Oral antibiotic alone is usually not effective in treating skin abscess.

### **The procedures may include the following:**

1. Local anesthetic medication will be injected into skin surrounding the abscess to minimize the pain.
2. The skin will be cleaned with antiseptic solution.
3. A cut will be incised on the skin overlying the abscess to drain out the pus.
4. The abscess cavity will be irrigated with saline or antiseptic solution.
5. A gauze may be put inside the abscess cavity to prevent pus accumulation and then the wound is covered with dressing materials.

### **Risk and Complication:**

Common risks and Complications:

1. Pain
2. Reaction to local anesthetic medication
3. Bleeding
4. Scarring
5. Recollection of pus

Possible uncommon risk includes:

Accidental injury to the surrounding important structures such as blood vessel and nerve.

### **Care after the procedure:**

1. You will be instructed to have regular change of dressing in the nearby general out-patient clinic.
2. Doctor may prescribe analgesic and/or antibiotics to you if indicated.
3. You should avoid excessive stretching or vigorous activity to the wound shortly after the procedure to prevent wound bleeding.

### **Remarks:**

This is general information only and the list of complications is not exhaustive. Other unforeseen complications may occasionally occur. In different patient groups, the actual risk may be different. For further information, please contact your doctor for details.