

**Stephen Kirk MD FRCS  
Consultant Surgeon**

**Robert Kennedy MD FRCS  
Consultant Surgeon**

*Further information may be obtained from:-*

**The Macmillan Breast Care Nurses  
Telephone: (028) 9055 0499**

Ulster Community & Hospitals Trust  
The Ulster Hospital  
Dundonald  
Belfast  
BT16 1RH  
Telephone: (028) 9048 4511

*January 2006*

*The Trust is a smoke-free organisation.*



## **Breast Surgery Day Case**

**Specialist Breast Care Service  
Ulster Hospital**

# Breast Surgery

## Day Case

This leaflet is designed to give you more information regarding the surgery to your breast which will be done as a day case – this will mean no overnight stay in hospital.

This procedure is usually done in the Day Procedure Unit (based in Newtownards Hospital). You will either have been given an appointment for this, or one will be sent to you in the post.

Your doctor will have discussed with you whether this procedure can be carried out

- under local anaesthetic (when the skin will be made numb by an injection so that you do not feel anything in that area), or
- under general anaesthetic (when you will be put to sleep and wake up when it is over).

If you are needing a general anaesthetic you will be told when you need to stop eating and drinking. You will also need someone to drive you home and stay with you overnight.

## What is the operation?

A small cut is made in the skin of the breast and the affected area is removed. The cut is closed up with dissolving stitches. A gauze or 'see through' dressing is placed over the wound.

## Your wound

You can remove the dressing after five days. If you are unable to do this yourself, you can arrange to call at your local surgery. When you feel able, you can shower/bath with the dressing in place.

## Pain

You may experience some pain in the breast in the first few days. You can take simple painkillers e.g. paracetamol or co-codamol. You may find it helpful to wear a comfortable bra.

## Results

You may also experience tingling of the breast, bruising and firmness around the scar. These are normal 'healing' signs and will settle after a few weeks.

## Review

It may not be necessary for you to have a review appointment. However, occasionally some people will be contacted with arrangements for review during the week following surgery.

## Returning to normal

You should be able to return to all your normal activities, including work, within a few days. This, however, will depend on the nature of your work.