



Sandwell and West Birmingham  
NHS Trust

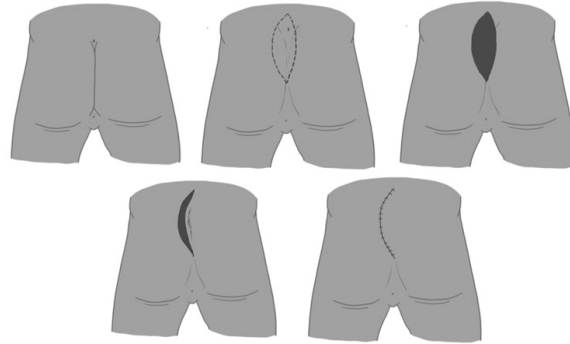
# Bascom's operation

Information and advice for patients

General Surgery

## What is Bascom's Operation?

It is a procedure to remove pilonidal sinus when a pilonidal abscess has not healed. This procedure involves removing the disease and reshaping the area to prevent recurrence. The wound closure is done in a way to lessen the deep cleft between the buttocks leaving a scar that lies on one side of the midline. This aids in wound healing and prevents it coming back.



Images created on behalf of General Surgery department by Joseph Anthony Attard - University Hospitals Leicester

## What to Expect

- 1. Consultation:** You'll have a consultation with your surgeon before the procedure. They will explain the details, answer your questions, and discuss any preoperative preparations.
- 2. Preparation:** Your surgeon/pre-assessment nurse will provide specific instructions for preoperative preparations. This might include fasting before surgery and any medications you should or shouldn't take.
- 3. Anaesthesia:** Bascom operations are typically done under general anaesthesia, which means you are unconscious during the procedure.
- 4. Procedure:** During the operation, the surgeon will make an incision to remove the pilonidal sinus/cyst and any infected tissue. They may also reshape the area to reduce the risk of recurrence.
- 5. Recovery:** After the procedure, you'll spend some time in a recovery area to wake up from anaesthesia and ensure there are no immediate complications. You may have some pain and discomfort, which can be managed with medication.
- 6. Hospital Stay:** Bascom operations are often outpatient procedures, meaning you may go home the same day. However, in some cases, you might need to stay overnight for observation.
- 7. Postoperative Care:** Your surgeon/recovery nurse will provide detailed postoperative care instructions. This may include wound care, dressing changes, and instructions for keeping the surgical area clean.

## After the operation

### Recovery:

1. A pressure dressing may be in place for the first 1-2 days.
2. Keep the wound clean and dry for 48 hours. Avoid baths, but you can shower daily after 48 hours.
3. Avoid the use of perfume sprays around the wound.
4. Avoid synthetic materials (use loose cotton underwear) until the wound heals.
5. Avoid sitting for long periods of time (try lying on your side – avoiding long period on your back).
6. Limit strenuous exercises for 4-6 weeks.
7. Avoid driving for 2 weeks.
8. Avoid sexual intercourse for 2 weeks.
9. If you have any concerns, contact your GP.

**Stiches:** You will have dissolvable sutures and skin glue and do not need to have the stitches removed.

**Follow up:** Locally with your GP and Patient Initiated Follow up (PIFU) if required.

### Complications

- Wound infection: swelling and redness over and around the wound and feeling unwell.
- Delayed healing of the wound (can take up to 12 weeks).

### For any further questions:

Please contact – General Surgery (secretary) 01215073393

### Further information

NHS Website

Pilonidal sinus

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/pilonidal-sinus/>

Patient UK

Pilonidal sinus

<https://patient.info/skin-conditions/pilonidal-sinus-leaflet>

(Websites accessed 9 February 2024)

If you would like to suggest any amendments or improvements to this leaflet please contact SWB Library Services on ext 3587 or email [swbh.library@nhs.net](mailto:swbh.library@nhs.net).



**A Teaching Trust of The University of Birmingham**  
Incorporating City, Sandwell and Rowley Regis Hospitals  
© Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust

ML7096  
Issue Date: April 2024  
Review Date: April 2027