

LASER SURGERY AND WHAT TO EXPECT

Laser surgery is a safe and reliable surgery which is used for the removal of superficial sarcoids, melanomas and other skin masses. It is usually carried out under standing sedation with local anaesthetic. During the procedure it is important that all personnel wear protective eyewear.



Figure 1: Laser surgery on an ear mass

Why Choose Laser?

- It helps to reduce 'seeding' of the tumour at the wound site and therefore reduces tumour recurrence
- Tumour cell death beyond the visible margins
- Minimal bleeding during and post-surgery
- Useful in cases when other treatment options are not possible



Figure 2: Typical Sarcoid Prior To Surgery



Figure 3: Immediately Post Surgery

Post Op Care:

The wounds are left open to heal so it is important to keep them clean and to keep flies away from them to reduce infection.

Most horses will be left with a short course of antibiotics and anti-inflammatories and in some cases topical treatment.

Vet Rechecks:

7-14 Days: To check wound healing

6 Weeks: To check wound healing and scar formation for any possible recurrence of the growth

6 Months: To check for recurrence of the growth or any new ones

What to Expect:

As the wounds are left open, they can have quite a lot of discharge and some swelling especially in the first 2 weeks. This is normal. They will develop granulation tissue and can look quite raw but the wound will be healing well underneath this.



Figure 3: Larger Groin Sarcoid Healing Well One Week Post Surgery

Costs:

There are a number of fixed and variable costs when lasering so giving an accurate estimated price is often difficult as these can vary between cases. However the below aims to give a rough idea of the cost including the visit, sedation, cost of the lasering procedure (including disposable laser cables), local anesthetic, initial course of antibiotics and anti-inflammatory pain killers.

- Single medium sarcoid or a couple of small sarcoids - £450 – £500
- Moderate number multiple sarcoids - £550 – £600
- Extensive sarcoids - £650+