

Biopsy Site Care Instructions

You have had a biopsy performed so the provider can send off the skin tissue sample to the pathologist for analysis using a microscope. It will take approximately one to two weeks to receive the pathology results. We will notify you of the results as soon as possible. There may be some post-procedure oozing, and this may stain the bandage. This is normal. If, however, you have excessive bleeding, i.e. soaking through the bandage and bright red, follow these steps:

Apply **constant and direct pressure** to the site for at least **15-20 minutes without releasing pressure** to look at the site. Use a clean washcloth or small towel. You may wrap the towel around ice to also help with the bleeding. If the bleeding continues and soaks through the towel or washcloth after applying pressure for 2 hours, call the office at **352-332-4442**.

Please follow these instructions in taking care of the biopsy site:

1. Remove the bandage. You **may** take a shower or bath. Then gently clean the site with soap and water using a clean washcloth or your fingertips.
2. Apply light coating of **Polysporin** ointment or **Bacitracin** ointment (or other antibiotic ointment provided) on the biopsy site. Do not use Neosporin ointment because 1-2% of the population will have an allergic reaction to this ointment. Keep the area **clean**.
3. **Avoid** direct sunlight to the biopsy site, because this spot is more prone to burning.
4. Do **not pick** at the area. This will increase scarring. Do **not** let the site dry out or form a scab. Scabs impede healing and scars do not heal as well. For those difficult areas to bandage (i.e. scalp, behind ears, lips, etc.) keep a good amount of ointment on the site at all times.
5. If you have any pain, take Extra-Strength Tylenol. **DO NOT TAKE ASPIRIN OR IBUPROFEN**.
6. Mild redness around the biopsy site is often seen in the normal healing process, especially on the legs. Often the base of the biopsy site may have a white-yellow appearance.
7. If you develop a fever, significant redness, pain or swelling, or have a discharge from the site, call the office at **352-332-4442**.
8. The scar that appears on healing will often have a white, pink, or brown appearance. The site can appear mildly depressed or occasionally become thickened depending on the location and the way an individual heals.

***** NOTE: Procyte™ Copper Complex** is available for purchase (\$20) for patients interested in maximizing the cosmetic outcome of his/her surgical scar. Please ask the nurse or check-out staff for this product if you are interested.

NOTE: All biopsy specimens will be sent to a skin pathologist for examination. The pathologist will bill you or your insurance company separately for this analysis. ***