

Wound Care Instructions- Skin Biopsy

NOTICE:

We send all biopsy specimens to a separate lab, Regional Medical Laboratory. We prefer this lab as they have pathologist who specialize in evaluating skin diseases. You may receive a separate bill from this lab. If you have a lab that you would prefer that we use, please notify us at this time.

- If the biopsy required sutures, they are usually removed in 5-14 days
- Leave the original bandage on for 24 hours if possible. If the bandage becomes soaked or soiled before that time, it is OK to remove it and examine the wound. A small amount of post-operative bleeding is normal. If excessive bleeding occurs, remove the bandage, place gauze over the site and apply continuous pressure (no peeking) over the area for 20-30 minutes. If this does not stop the bleeding, try again for 40 minutes. If this does not work, please call our clinic as soon as possible (even if after hours).
- Twice a day, cleanse the wound with soap and water. If a thick crust develops you may use a Q-tip dipped into dilute hydrogen peroxide (mix 1:1 with water) to dissolve it. Hydrogen peroxide can slow the healing process, so use it only as needed. After washing, apply Vaseline ointment. For best healing, the wound should be covered with a layer of ointment at all times. This may mean re-applying the ointment several times a day. For sutured wounds, continue this procedure until the sutures are removed. For open wounds, continue until it has healed.
- If you have any swelling, keep the area elevated.
- Some redness, tenderness and white or yellow material in the wound is normal healing. If the area becomes very sore and red, or develops a thick yellow-green material (pus), it may be infected, please notify us.
- Wound healing continues for up to one year following surgery. It is not unusual to experience pain in the scar from time to time during the interval. If the pain becomes severe or the scar thickens, you should notify the office. A slight amount of redness in a scar is expected for the first six months. After six months, the redness subsides and the scar will soften and fade. The color difference becomes less noticeable with time. If there are any problems, return for a post-op surgery check at your earliest convenience.
- ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS CALL OUR OFFICE 272-7044