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## **BIOPSY WOUND CARE**

You have had a biopsy performed so that Dr. Esche can send off the skin tissue sample to the pathologist for analysis using a microscope. A pathologist renders a diagnosis regarding the type of growth or disease present. Dr. Esche then reviews the pathologist's findings and coordinates that with his observation of your condition. Knowing the type of growth or disease helps Dr. Esche determine the best possible way to treat you.

It will take approximately 7 business days to receive the results. We will notify you as soon as possible. Please call our office if you do not receive notification of biopsy results within 2 weeks.

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 20 minutes without peeking. 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, please call our office.

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

Keep the bandage that we place intact until your next shower. At that time, remove the bandage and gently clean the site with white **Dove® Soap** or **Hydrogen Peroxide** using a clean washcloth or your fingertips, but do not soak the area in water longer than 1 minute.

Begin daily **Vinegar Soaks:**

- Mix 1 tablespoon white vinegar with 1 pint of warm water.
- With a soft washcloth or gauze, soak biopsy site for 10 minutes with vinegar solution.

Apply light coating of **Vaseline (Petroleum Jelly)** twice daily and then cover with another **Band-Aid**®. Cover the wound for one to two weeks. Covered wounds heal with a better cosmetic result. Some patients develop an irritant or allergic reaction to Band-Aids®. In this case, paper tape and **Telfa**® **Non Adhering Gauze** is our preferred dressing. Keeping the wound moist with Vaseline will prevent a thick scab from forming, which allows the wound to heal quickly and will also minimize scarring. We prefer Vaseline to antibiotic ointment because some people are allergic to antibiotic ointment. We particularly discourage the use of any Neomycin-containing ointment.

If you have any pain, take **Extra-Strength Tylenol**®. Do not take Aspirin® or Ibuprofen (Advil®, Motrin®).

Please do not pick the biopsy site. This will increase scarring. 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.

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. 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.

Please call our office if you develop a fever, significant redness, pain or swelling, read streaks on nearby skin, painful or swollen lymph glands, or have pus or increased discharge from the site. In addition, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our office.

Please return for suture removal as instructed (generally 1 week for face, 2 weeks for rest of body).