



WOUND CARE FOLLOWING A SHAVE OR PUNCH BIOPSY

Please follow these directions 24 hours after your biopsy and repeat daily for 10 days or until the site is fully healed.

- Remove your dressing or bandage;
- Clean the area as you would normal skin, using mild, unscented Dove soap and water. If you have sutures, avoid totally submerging the wound until the sutures have been removed. Placing the wound under running water and showering are okay;
- Pat the area dry and apply either a small amount of prescribed antibiotic ointment (Altabax or Mupirocin) or plain Vaseline. **Please do not apply over-the-counter antibiotic ointments.** These often cause allergic rashes and may cause the wound to appear infected when it is not, and will slow the healing process;
- Re-cover the biopsy site with a band aid/bandage.

Other important information

- If you develop a “band aid” rash (irritation from the band aid adhesive), use a plain piece of gauze and paper tape, which are available at drug stores, to cover the biopsy site.
- If you have sutures, avoid swimming/hot tubs until the biopsy site is fully healed. Return to have the sutures removed as instructed by your provider.
- If you had a shave biopsy (no sutures), these sites may take 4-8 weeks to heal fully, especially if a deep shave was performed and/or if the wound is on your back or legs.
- Your pathology report may take 10-14 days to be processed. If your results are benign, we will send a letter in the mail to notify you. If additional treatment is required, you will be contacted by a member of our staff.
- If the biopsy site becomes red, swollen, warm to the touch, painful, or has increased drainage more than 3-4 days following the procedure, please call our office. These are signs that the site may be infected.

If you feel that you have an emergency, please call our office at 704.235.1827