

## Skin Biopsy Wound Care Instructions

- Keep the area clean and dry for 24 hours.
- After 24 hours, remove the bandage
- Cleanse the area with antibacterial soap and water, or hydrogen peroxide and water to remove any blood or crust formation around the suture(s).
- Pat dry with a clean gauze or cloth
- Apply antibiotic ointment over the sutures and cover with a clean bandage.
- You may get the biopsy area wet in the shower 48 hours after the procedure. Leave the bandage on to protect the biopsy site while showering, but change it immediately AFTER showering IF it gets wet.
- Avoid strenuous activities and exercise that may put stress on the biopsy site until the suture(s) are removed.
- Discomfort - Do NOT use aspirin, aspirin-containing products, ibuprofen, or alcohol for the first five days after your biopsy. This may increase bleeding at the biopsy site. Instead, you may take Tylenol (acetaminophen) or Extra Strength Tylenol, one or two tablets every four hours.
- Bleeding - If bleeding occurs, apply continuous, FIRM pressure with a gauze or the bandage for 15-20 minutes. If bleeding persists, repeat the pressure for an additional 20 minutes. If bleeding continues, you should notify the office immediately. If the office is closed, go to your nearest emergency or acute care facility.
- Infection – Some soreness and redness will be expected. If the area becomes very sore, red, hot to touch, swollen, or there is a cloudy discharge notify the office immediately. If you have a fever, notify our office immediately, you may have an infection that will require additional care to resolve.
- Bruising and swelling may occur after the biopsy is performed. This is normal and can last up to a week or so. Swelling usually increases for the first 24-48 hours and then begins to improve. Contact the office if this swelling does not improve or gets worse on the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> day after your biopsy.