

## Skin Biopsy: Post-Treatment Care

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A skin biopsy removes tissue for examination by a skilled pathologist. It is done in one of two ways:

1. A "punch" removal of a specimen, with the area repaired with sutures.
2. A "shave" removal of a more superficial and often wider specimen, which does not require sutures.

In either type of biopsy, proper care of the biopsy site is the same. You should:

- Keep the biopsy site covered and dry for the first 24 hours.
- After one day, remove the dressing and wash the area with soap and water. Apply a thin film of an antibiotic cream such as Polysporin or Bactroban, then dress the area with a fresh covering. You may use a standard adhesive bandage or you may choose to use a sterile pad secured with adhesive tape.
- Continue cleansing the area, applying the antibiotic cream, and replacing the bandage with a fresh dressing each day until your Family Dermatology doctor advises you to stop.
- Most biopsy wounds heal without excessive scar tissue, itching or discomfort. However, if you experience any of these symptoms, please call Family Dermatology for advice.

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