

**AFFILIATED DERMATOLOGISTS &
DERMATOLOGIC SURGEONS, P.A.**
Skin Biopsy Wound Care Instructions rev.040914

Today we performed a skin biopsy. Please follow these instructions to care for the biopsy site.

Recommended Ointment: Petrolatum (Vaseline) Bacitracin (over-the-counter) Bactroban (mupirocin)
Other: _____



Daily care:

- We have placed a Band-Aid or pressure dressing over your biopsy site. Unless instructed otherwise, leave the Band-Aid or dressing in place until tomorrow.
- Tomorrow, remove the dressing. It may be more comfortable to remove it while in the bath or shower, especially if the biopsy site is in a hair-bearing area.
- Gently wash the area with soap and water.
- After washing and drying the site, apply a small amount of the recommended ointment on the site. Then, if the site is on your neck, trunk, arm, hand, foot, or leg, apply a fresh Band-Aid. If the site is on your face or scalp, it may be difficult to keep a Band-Aid on. But keep the site moist with the recommended ointment regardless.
- Repeat the process of washing the skin, coating it with the recommended ointment, and applying a fresh Band-Aid every day for a week. If after a week it is still open continue using the recommended ointment until the site heals. Depending on the depth of the biopsy and the site on the body, healing may take anywhere from one to four weeks.

Contrary to popular belief, leaving a wound open to the air does not help with healing. If a scab forms on the biopsy site, it will slow the healing process and may create a more noticeable scar. This is why you should keep the area moist with the recommended ointment and, if possible, a fresh Band-Aid every day.

A rim of redness and some tenderness around the site is normal. Yellow or red drainage coming from the site is also normal. Itchy red blisters around the site may be an indication of an allergy to Bacitracin (Neosporin) and a sign to switch to Petrolatum (Vaseline).

Bleeding:

Most patients do not have bleeding following a biopsy procedure. If you have any bleeding from the biopsy site, use a fresh paper towel or clean washcloth and apply steady pressure to the area for 20 minutes without peeking to see if it has stopped. If you peek, you must start over at zero minutes.

Biopsy Results:

Biopsy results are available within approximately (2) weeks. Some will receive a call whether it is benign or malignant. If the lesion requires treatment in our main Morristown office, such as Mohs surgery for a skin cancer on your face, you may hear from the Morristown office directly.

If you haven't heard from our office you can call the main line (973-267-0300) for your biopsy results, but wait at least (2) weeks from the time of the procedure before doing so.

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