



MAGNOLIA DERMATOLOGY

BIOPSY AND WOUND CARE GUIDE

WHAT IS A BIOPSY?

- A biopsy removes a sample or piece of a rash or spot from the surface of your skin. This piece of skin is sent to the lab for evaluation by a pathologist.
- A biopsy is usually used as a diagnostic procedure and may not result in the complete removal of the lesion or function as treatment.
- Our biopsy specimens are sent to ***Skin Diagnostics*** in Birmingham, AL. They will process and file your insurance for you. You will receive a bill from them if you have an unmet deductible.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF A SKIN BIOPSY?

- Skin biopsies are generally a safe procedure, but complications can occur including:
 - Bleeding, bruising, or infection
- A **scar** will result from any procedure that removes a sample of skin – the type of scar that forms depends on the type of biopsy and the way the patient's skin heals. Biopsies on the neck or upper torso may result in more prominent, raised scars

WOUND CARE AFTER YOUR BIOPSY

- A bandage will be applied after the procedure. Remove this bandage prior to your next shower or bath.
- Occasionally the biopsy site will bleed after you leave the clinic.
 - If this occurs, apply direct pressure to the wound for 10-20 minutes.
 - You should contact our office if bleeding continues.
- Gently wash the site with soap and water (shampoo if on the scalp) twice daily and pat dry.
- Do not let the site dry out. Cover it with Vaseline or Aquaphor Healing Ointment and a band-aid. An antibiotic ointment (Neosporin) may be used, but is not necessary.
- It is normal for your site to have slightly red edges and yellow matter inside the wound.
- If you are concerned for infection look for these signs:
 - Bright red appearance
 - Swelling
 - Pain to touch
 - Thick yellow drainage or pus
- **Biopsies often take longer than expected to heal. Most areas will begin to heal within 2 weeks; however, biopsies on the lower legs and feet may take 4-6 weeks to heal.**

If your results are normal or benign (not cancerous), you will be sent a message via our portal. If additional treatment is needed, you will be contacted by phone. You may access our portal at *MagnoliaDerm.org* or *www.magderm.ema.md*

If you have not been contacted in 14 days, please call us.

Call our office, at 601-910-3004, if you have any questions.