

BIOPSY CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Nature of Procedure

You just had a procedure called a skin biopsy. There are two types of skin biopsy procedures, punch biopsy and shave biopsy. The punch biopsy tool is similar to a small circular cookie cutter that removes a circular piece of tissue. A suture is often required for proper wound healing. The shave biopsy blade goes flush with the surface of the skin and no suture is required.

Care for Biopsy Site(s)

Supplies:

Cotton-tipped applicator (Q-tip)
Band-Aid
Vaseline or Aquaphor ointment
Saline Solution or Soap & Water

1. Leave the bandage on for 24 hours and keep the area covered and dry.
2. If you experience any discomfort, take Tylenol as directed every 4-6 hours. We recommend that you avoid aspirin, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents such as Motrin or Advil, and alcohol, for the first 24 hours as these may increase the likelihood that you will bleed.
3. Except when bathing, keep the area dry. If the dressing gets wet, change it.
4. Clean the biopsy site once a day:
 - a. Wash hands before and after the dressing change.
 - b. Use Saline Solution or soap & water to gently cleanse the area to remove any crusting or scabbing.
 - c. Pat the area dry.
 - d. Gently apply Vaseline or Aquaphor ointment with a Q-tip to keep the wound moist for better healing.
 - e. Cover with a dry non-stick pad or Band-Aid.
 - f. When the surface of the skin has healed (approximately 5 to 10 days), wound care may be discontinued.
5. It is normal for healing wounds to feel slightly tender to the touch, look pink around the edges and slightly yellow in the center of the wound. However, if after a few days it becomes increasingly red, swollen, painful, hot, or develops a discharge, please call our office.

Potential Complications

Complications are rare but may include pain, loss of blood, infection, allergic reaction to anesthetic, scarring, and other complications. If you notice any of these or other concerns, please call the office immediately at (949) 364-8411.

Biopsy Notification

We notify all patients of their results.

1. **Web Enabled Patients:** You will receive an email notification or phone call. If you receive an email, please log on to your health portal at <http://portal.LaderaDerm.com> to receive your results. If you do not receive a message in 3 weeks, please send us a message through the portal or call our office.
2. **Non-Web Enabled Patients:** You should receive a letter or a phone call informing you of your results within 3 weeks. If you do not, please call the office.

