

## **Biopsy Wound Care**

- A skin biopsy is the removal of skin and subsequent examination under a microscope. The sample is processed and evaluated by a Dermatopathologist. Your provider will then review the microscopic findings and coordinate treatment for your condition.
- You will be contacted in approximately 1-2 weeks with your test results. If you don't hear from our office in 2 weeks, please contact our office.

### **Wound Care:**

- Keep your bandage on for 24 hours, then remove the bandage and shower as usual.
- Clean the area gently with antibacterial soap and water daily. Avoid scrubbing.
- Apply a thin layer of Vaseline, Aquaphor, or Polysporin ointment to the area, and then cover with a bandage, every day until it is healed (about 1-2 weeks). Biopsies on the lower legs may take longer to heal.
- Do not let the air "get at it to breathe" or allow a scab/crust to form. This is done by keeping the area greasy with ointment.
- There may be **mild discomfort** associated with the procedure. About an hour after the procedure, the anesthetic will wear off. If you have pain, you may take Extra Strength Tylenol (acetaminophen) and/or apply an ice pack over the bandage.
- It is normal for the wound to be pink/red and a little tender while it is healing. **If you develop pain, pus, or fever, please call our office.**
- **If any bleeding occurs**, use a cotton ball or gauze and press firmly over the site for 15 minutes continuously without peeking. Do not remove the pressure before 15 minutes. If the bleeding does not stop after this is repeated 2-3 times, please contact our office.
- **If irritation occurs** from the bandage, please switch to a bandage with ointment, telfa/non-stick pad, and hypoallergenic paper tape.

### **If sutures were placed...**

- Continue applying a thin layer of the above ointment of choice until you return to have your sutures removed.
- You may shower normally but no baths, hot tubs, or swimming until the sutures are removed.
- They are typically removed 7-14 days after the biopsy. Please make sure you have an appointment scheduled for suture removal.