



Post-Biopsy Wound Care Instructions

Note: These instructions are for biopsy wound care, not incision (surgery) wound care

1. Avoid vigorous activity for one to two days.
2. If you have stitches, keep the biopsy site clean, dry and covered for 24 hours at minimum. If you do not have stitches, the biopsy site may be kept clean, dry and covered until the morning after the biopsy. The biopsy site may be left covered for up to 48 hours after the biopsy before removing the bandage, as long as it is kept clean and dry.
3. Remove the bandage.
4. Wash gently in the shower with soap and water daily, or twice daily if on the face.
5. Gently pat dry.
6. If the site is below the knee, on the ear, or if you were instructed to do so, apply vinegar and water compress for 5 minutes (see vinegar and water compress).
7. Apply Aquaphor or Vaseline (do NOT apply ointment to scalp biopsies if you are a man over the age of 50).
8. Cover with a bandage.
9. Repeat daily (or twice daily) for 5-7 days (face) or 10-14 days (other sites).
10. If you have stitches, do not submerge the biopsy site under water (bathtub, pool, lake, etc) until 24 hours after the stitches have been removed.
11. Avoid potentially contaminated water (lake, swimming pool, hot tub, etc) until healed.
12. Some bleeding or drainage is normal. If bleeding is severe, notify us immediately. Most bleeding can be stopped by applying direct pressure with a clean gauze to the site for 30 minutes (NON-STOP). Ice can be helpful as well. If the bleeding does not stop, please notify us or go to a nearby emergency room for assistance.
13. If you do not have stitches, it is normal for the site to be yellowish in the middle with a pink rim.
14. Please notify us if marked swelling, redness, tenderness, "pus" or yellowish fluid drains from the wound. Please also notify us if a rash should develop at the wound site.