



## WOUND CARE FOLLOWING A SKIN BIOPSY

- Always wash your hands prior to caring for your wound. Remove the bandage 24 hours following the procedure unless instructed otherwise
- After bandage removal, begin at least once daily cleansing of the wound with mild soap and water. Use a Q-tip or clean gauze to gently remove any dried blood or excess crusting, then rinse well with tap water. You may use a 50/50 mixture of water and hydrogen peroxide if you are having trouble removing any crusts. Continue cleansing until the wound is completely healed
- After cleansing, apply a coating of Aquaphor or Vaseline (Petroleum Jelly), then apply a bandage over the wound. Repeat this process and continue to keep the wound covered with a bandage for at least 7-10 days. After 7-10 days, you should continue to clean the wound, but may apply Aquaphor or Vaseline only if the wound is healing adequately. I do not recommend Neosporin or other topical antibiotics as they can cause an allergic reaction
- If you start to bleed from the biopsy site, apply direct pressure for 20 minutes without looking at the wound. If it is still bleeding, repeat for 20 minutes. You may also try applying pressure with an ice pack for 20 minutes
- Your biopsy site will have some inflammation and a pink to red color will develop as it is healing. It is also common to have a yellow-green film covering the top of the wound. This is normal and is not usually a sign of infection. True signs of infection include increasing pain days after the biopsy was performed, wound feeling hot to the touch (not just warm, but hot), draining of pus, and fever. If you develop these symptoms, please call our office
- Most biopsy sites heal completely in a few weeks, but some can take longer depending on the size and the location of the biopsy. Wounds on the leg take a particularly long time to heal, often 1-2months total
- Avoid hot tubs, swimming, or soaking in a bath tub for two weeks following your surgery
- If your biopsy is benign, you will likely get a text message only informing you of your results. If it is cancer or requires additional explanation or a prescription, we will try to coordinate contact by phone. If you have not heard back from us with your biopsy results within 14 days, please call us
- If your biopsy site has any stitches, please call if you do not have an appointment for stitch removal