

## BIOPSY WOUND CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Proper wound care will decrease your chance of infection and minimize the amount of scarring. Your provider may give you specific instructions that differ from what is on this handout, and if that is the case, follow the specific instructions of your provider.

### Wound Care

1. Leave the wound dressing in place for 24-48 hours. Keep the dressing clean and dry. You may take a shower; however, you should attempt to keep the dressing dry. If the dressing becomes wet, remove and replace it with a new dressing.
2. Wash your hands before and after each dressing change. Dressings may be easier to remove after a shower. Each day you should remove your dressing and gently clean the site with soap and water or diluted hydrogen peroxide (1 part hydrogen peroxide to 10 parts water). Pat dry.
3. Apply a coat of petroleum jelly (Vaseline) and cover with a dressing or band-aid. Do not place the adhesive portion of the dressing directly on the wound or stitches. Do not use Neosporin as it can irritate the skin or cause an allergic reaction. Only use petroleum jelly.
4. In certain circumstances, a dressing may not be necessary and only petroleum jelly will be used.

### Bleeding

If there is bleeding, hold firm, continuous pressure with gauze for 30 minutes. For bleeding that quickly soaks through gauze or is not stopped by firm pressure, call the office or be seen by a local medical doctor or Emergency Room.

### Infection

Call the office if you experience any of the following signs of infection:

- increasing pain at the procedure site
- swelling or expanding redness (some redness at the procedure site is normal)
- fever

### Suture Removal

Sutures are generally removed 7-14 days after the procedure.

In your case, your provider recommends suture removal in \_\_\_\_\_ days.

### Biopsy and Excision Pathology Results

Specimens sent for pathology generally take 7-14 days to get results. If you have not received a call with your results after 14 days, call the clinic.