



HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS AFTER A SKIN BIOPSY

1. Leave your wound dressings in place for the rest of the day after the biopsy, and keep them dry.
2. Do daily bandage changes starting tomorrow.
3. Showers are fine starting tomorrow. Leave the bandage(s) in place while you shower and change them once you dry off.
4. Do not soak in the bath or go swimming during the time period that you are doing daily bandage changes.
5. You will continue with the daily bandage changes from 1 to 2 days up to 2 weeks. Bandage changes may be discontinued once the wound closes.
6. If you need to use anything to clean the wounds, hydrogen peroxide is recommended. If the wound(s) are fine (no signs of infection, etc.), all you need to do is change the bandage each day.
7. The wound(s) may or may not form a scab as they heal – either way is fine. If a black scab forms over the biopsy site, leave it in place!
8. Continue to change the bandages daily until you don't have an open wound.
9. Anesthetic will typically last 1 to 2 hours after the procedure. After the anesthetic wears off, you may have some mild, localized soreness and tenderness at the biopsy site(s) over the next day or two. If you experience localized discomfort and you are not on a pain medication, over-the-counter Tylenol may be helpful.
10. Refrain from doing extremely strenuous activities for the rest of the day of your biopsy (extremely heavy lifting, running, etc.).
11. Once you are without the bandage, the biopsy site(s) may look slightly reddish or slightly darker than the rest of your skin. This discoloration will gradually fade and blend back with your normal skin color. This fading process can take anywhere from a few months up to a year for some people.
12. It is very rare that people have any problems during the healing period. If you experience significant bleeding, redness, or infection, please call the office at 508-757-4003 or report to the nearest emergency room.