

Post Shave Biopsy Instructions

Procedure:

1. Keep original bandage on the site(s) ideally for 24 hours. It is preferable to keep the area dry during this period. Once you begin showering, leave the dressing on in the shower while allowing it to get wet.
2. Immediately following your shower, remove the wet bandage, wipe off the old ointment (use tissue or gauze) and cleanse the area with a mild liquid soap and water solution (Soft soap, Dial, etc) being certain to remove all old ointment/drainage from the surface.
3. Rinse and dry the area with a clean gauze pad.
4. Apply a thin layer of Vaseline, A&D ointment, or Polysporin to the wound. (Do not use Neosporin)
5. Cut non-stick dressing pad to completely cover the wound and secure with tape. It's very important to keep the area moist with ointment and sealed on all sides. Your biopsy site will heal faster and better than if you allow a scab to form.
6. Repeat this procedure every 24 hours until the area is healed. This usually takes 7-10 days.

Additional Information:

1. After your biopsy you can expect some mild discomfort. This is highly variable among patients and is also dependent upon the location of your biopsy. Some areas are more sensitive than others. You may take a non-aspirin pain reliever as needed.
2. You should expect some mild swelling, redness, and bruising around the biopsy site. This will resolve in a few days.
3. Bleeding is rare after a shave biopsy. If bleeding does occur, then sit or lie down and apply firm constant pressure to the wound for 20 minutes. If the bleeding has not stopped, repeat for 20 additional minutes. If it persists, call our office or Dr. Viehman after hours.
4. Once the wound has completely healed over, begin using sunscreen to prevent darkening of the scar.

Any further questions can be addressed through our office at 910-256-2100.

Normal Business Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 7:30am-5:00pm and 7:30- 1:00pm on Wednesday and Friday.