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WHAT IS A BIOPSY (SKIN SURGERY)?

A "BIOPSY" IS A PROCEDURE PERFORMED BY YOUR DOCTOR INVOLVING THE REMOVAL OF A SMALL SAMPLE OF GROWTH OR SKIN. THE SAMPLE IS SENT TO A PATHOLOGIST WHO USES A MICROSCOPE TO EXAMINE AND IDENTIFY THE TYPE OF GROWTH OR DISEASE PRESENT. LOCAL ANESTHESIA IS USED TO NUMB THE AREA PRIOR TO THE BIOPSY. USUALLY WITH SURGICAL PROCEDURES THERE IS SOME DISCOMFORT. (ALL SURGERIES CARRY THE POSSIBILITY OF REVISION BEFORE FINAL RESULT IS REALIZED.)

SHAVE BIOPSY: CUTTING GROWTH OFF SKIN THEN BURNING THE OPENING TO STOP BLEEDING AND KILL ANY GROWTH LEFT BEHIND. PATIENT WILL RETURN IN THREE TO SIX WEEKS TO FOLLOW-UP ON BIOPSY.

PUNCH BIOPSY: CUTTING OF ROUND PIECE OF SKIN WITH A SMALL INSTRUMENT. AMOUNT OF BLEEDING CAN VARY. THE OPENING OF THE SKIN WILL BE SUTURED OR SEWN TOGETHER AND BANDAGED. PATIENT WILL RETURN IN ONE TO TWO WEEK TO HAVE SUTURES REMOVED AND FOLLOW-UP ON BIOPSY.

YOUR DOCTOR THEN REVIEWS THE PATHOLOGIST'S FINDINGS AND COORDINATES THAT WITH HIS/HER OBSERVATION OF YOUR CONDITION. KNOWING THE TYPE OF GROWTH OR DISEASE HELPS YOUR DOCTOR DETERMINE THE BEST WAY POSSIBLE TO TREAT YOU.

THERE ARE FOUR CHARGES PLACED WHEN A BIOPSY IS PERFORMED (SUBMITTED TO INSURANCE):

1. PREPARATION AND USE OF SURGICAL TRAYS
2. THE DOCTOR WHO REMOVES THE TISSUE CHARGES FOR THAT REMOVAL.
3. NUMBER OF SITES REMOVED
4. THE PATHOLOGIST CHARGES FOR THE PREPARATION AND EVALUATIONS OF THE TISSUE.

CARE OF SURGICAL SITE

- 1) **DO NOT TOUCH** THE SITE FOR 24 HOURS, UNLESS TOLD TO DO SO. (WASH AROUND BANDAGE WHEN SHOWERING OR BATHING, BUT DO NOT REMOVE.)
- 2) IF SURGERY IS PERFORMED ON THE SCALP, WAIT THREE DAYS BEFORE SHAMPOOING.
- 3) ALWAYS WASH YOUR HANDS WITH SOAP AND WATER BEFORE TOUCHING WOUND SITE
- 4) **AFTER 24 HOURS:** RINSE ONLY (NO SCRUBBING) THE SURGERY SITE WITH COOL BOILED WATER, NORMAL SALINE, OR DISTILLED-WATER ONCE A DAY
- 5) THOROUGHLY DRY THE AREA AND APPLY A SMALL AMOUNT OF PREPARATION-H. OINTMENT ONLY (NOT THE CREAM). **DO NOT USE NEOSPORIN**. APPLY OINTMENT ONCE A DAY.
- 6) PLACE A SMALL AMOUNT OF DRESSING OR BAND-AID OVER THE WOUND UNTIL IT IS HEALED.
- 7) THERE IS USUALLY SOME PAIN ASSOCIATED WITH MOST PROCEDURES. TAKE **TYLENOL** FOR PAIN **DO NOT USE ASPIRIN, MOTRIN, ALEVE, IBUPROFEN, ADVIL**
- 8) AVOID SMOKING. SMOKING DIRECTLY AFFECTS WOUND HEALING.
- 9) TAKE VITAMIN C 2000 MG EVERYDAY

Shopping List for Wound Care

1. Preparation-H® OINTMENT
2. Bandages for several wound dressing changes
3. Tylenol for any pain or discomfort