



Wound Care Instructions – Biopsy

Keep the bandage dry until the day following your procedure (you can change it sooner should it get wet or if there is bleeding/oozing).

A slight oozing or bleeding is normal and should resolve with pressure (firm pressure for 5 minutes and repeat 2-3 times, if needed). Ice may also be used as needed.

For mild pain, over-the-counter pain medication (Tylenol, Advil) may be taken.

Once a day, wash the area gently with soap and water and pat dry. Apply a layer of ointment (antibiotic ointment is ok if you are not allergic, otherwise use Vaseline or Aquaphor) and cover with a bandage.

Repeat for at least the first 5 days. Wounds heal best under “moist occlusion,” and the goal is to avoid forming a hard, dry scab.

Bruising may be seen and mild redness and some itching is normal with wound healing.

If tenderness and/or discomfort increase or persist for longer than 2 days, or you get swelling or yellow fluid or crust at the biopsy site, please call us (415-887-9758), as this could indicate an infection.

Biopsy results may take 1-2 weeks to return. For your convenience, results will be published to your patient portal (smd.ema.md). If you don't see your result in 2 weeks, please call us.

For after-hours urgent issues, call 415-887-9758 and follow the prompts to reach your doctor. For emergencies, call 911 or seek urgent care.

Note: In an effort to keep health care costs to a minimum, we may offer pathology slide interpretation on site at SMD. However, at the discretion of your physician, your biopsy may need to be sent to another laboratory for interpretation. Please note that these labs will bill your insurance separately (e.g. APMG or UCSF) for pathology services.