



BAY AREA COSMETIC DERMATOLOGY

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POST CARE FOR SKIN BIOPSY

[Shave or Punch]

WHAT IS A SKIN BIOPSY?

A skin biopsy is a procedure to remove cells or skin samples from your body for laboratory examination. It helps to diagnose skin conditions and remove abnormal tissue.

- **SHAVE BIOPSY:** Provider uses a tool similar to a razor to remove a small section of the top layers of skin.
- **PUNCH BIOPSY:** Provider uses a circular tool to remove a small core of skin, including deeper layers, then sutures are applied.

EXPECTATIONS

- Any removal carries with it a slight risk of infection.
- Depending on the type of biopsy, sutures may be necessary.
- If you are currently taking blood thinners, you may experience bruising. If approved by your doctor, please stop one week in advance of procedure.
- Removed moles may redevelop over time, or pigmentation/scarring may occur at the site.
- The goal of any mole removal is a flat surface, but on occasion the surface may be raised or concave.
- Your biopsy will be sent to UCSF for testing.
- Your provider will review the pathologist's findings and will contact you by phone, mail, or email regarding the diagnosis and whether or not further treatment is necessary. You should hear back within a week after appointment.
- Please note: a separate fee is charged by the pathology lab to process the specimen, which will be sent directly to you or to your insurance carrier for payment.

HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR SKIN

Until the removal site is healed, the wound dressing (bandage or band-aid) should be changed once a day as follows:

1. Remove the bandage or band-aid.
2. Gently clean the wound with soap and water.
3. Gently pat the wound dry.
4. Apply a thin layer of ointment over the wound. Aquaphor Ointment is best for keeping the wound moist.
5. Cover the wound with a clean bandage or band-aid.

Continue wound care until the sutures are removed or, if you didn't have sutures, until the skin is healed.

The removal site should continue to improve each day. If you notice increasing redness beyond the edge of the wound, swelling or persistent drainage from the removal site, the site may be infected. Please promptly contact the office.

If your provider has given you instructions deviating from the general recommendations in this document, please follow your provider's personalized instructions.

Questions or concerns? Please securely send a direct message to your provider through BACD's online patient portal: [MyPatientVisit](#) or call the office 415-292-6350.