



GRANT GERNER, MD

Wound Care Instructions for Shave Biopsies

Wounds from shave biopsies are similar to abrasions (“rug burns”). They typically are tender for the first few days. A scab should develop at the biopsy site.

Generally, care for the wound is to keep the site moist or “greasy” with clean petrolatum, (e.g. Aquaphor), until the scab flakes off on its own. Do not scratch or pick at the scab.

Wounds generally do heal faster and with less risk of infection if a bandage is kept on it until the scab is flaking off.

Once the scab has sloughed off, the area of treatment will normally be pinkish to white in color. It is best to keep the wound area protected from sunlight until normal skin color returns. This can take several months.

Water/Bathing

There are no restrictions of normal bathing or swimming in a pool. After bathing/swimming, gently cleanse the wound with warm water. A mild soap, such as Dove or Ivory, may also be used to gently remove any dried blood from around the wound. Blot, do not wipe, the wound dry with a clean towel. Apply petrolatum and a bandage.

Infection

It is normal to have mild tenderness of a wound. This should slowly subside after a few days and up to two weeks.

Signs of infection include:

- Pus coming from the wound
- Wound area is extremely tender to the touch
- A red streak on the skin appears near the wound
- Lymph glands swell and become tender
- Fever develops
- Wound becomes more painful or swollen more than two days after the procedure
- Redness and swelling is more than ½ inch around the wound

If any of these signs of infection occur, call Dr. Gerner at the numbers listed below, or go to an Urgent Care Center or Emergency Room.

If you have any complications, please call the office: 505-795-7735

If it is after office hours, call Dr. Grant Gerner’s cell: 505-699-8063

Or you may call Wendy, his wife/Office Manager's cell: 505-699-8064

If you cannot reach Dr. Gerner you may need to go to an Urgent Care Center or an Emergency Room for immediate care.