Wound Care After a Biopsy

Caring for your Wound:
• Keep the bandage placed at the time of the biopsy on and dry until the next morning.
• Then begin the following steps 2 times per day until the biopsy site is healed or until the stitches are removed. If you have stitches:
  • Wash the wound with tap water using a clean washcloth, gauze or Q-tip.
  • Pat dry with a clean towel or gauze.
  • Apply Aquaphor or Vaseline or, if prescribed by your doctor, Bactroban (Mupirocin) ointment and cover it with a Band-Aid or bandage cut to the size of your wound.

Important Points:
• If you have stitches, avoid letting the biopsy site soak in water (i.e. avoid swimming and taking a bath) until the stitches are removed. If you have stitches, avoid heavy lifting and strenuous exercise until the stitches are removed.
• If you do not have stitches, you can go swimming but cover the site with a waterproof bandage. When you get out, take off the bandage, rinse with water, and apply ointment and a fresh Band-Aid or bandage as above.
• If you have any bleeding through the bandage, apply firm pressure for 20 minutes. If the bleeding persists, repeat. If the site is still bleeding, please call the office.

Please call the office if you have:
• Chills of a temperature of 101°F (38.3°C) or higher.
• Any of the following symptoms at your wound or the area around it:
  • Increasing redness or pain.
  • Skin that is hot to the touch.
  • Yellowish drainage.
  • Bleeding that does not stop after applying pressure.
• Any questions or unexpected problems.