



## What is a Biopsy?

A “Biopsy” is when the provider takes a small sample of a growth or skin. The sample is sent to a pathologist who decides, by looking through a microscope at the sample, the type of growth or disease present.

Your provider 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 possible way to treat you.

There are charges from two places when a biopsy is performed:

- 1.) The Dermatologist for removal of the tissue in the office
- 2.) The Pathologist for the preparation and evaluation of the tissue under the microscope.

## Care of the Biopsy Site

- 1.) Wash your hands with mild soap and water
- 2.) **Cleanse** the biopsy site with **Mild Soap and Water**
- 3.) Thoroughly dry the area and apply a small amount of **antibiotic ointment** (preferably **Bacitracin**) or plain **Vaseline**
- 4.) Place a small dressing or band-aid over the area until it appears healed
- 5.) Follow steps 1-4 **TWICE DAILY** until the wound is healed

Studies show that wounds heal better when covered with ointment and a dressing.

It is important to realize that this is only a biopsy. The lesion may heal and appear gone; However, if it is cancerous, you will need another procedure to completely remove the lesion.