



SKIN | CANCER | FOCUS

Shave Biopsy / Shave Excision Aftercare Instructions

Immediately After the Procedure

1. **Dressing:**
 - Your doctor will place a small dressing or bandage over the site.
 - Keep it in place for the first **24 hours** or as advised.
 2. **Bleeding:**
 - Minor oozing or spotting is normal.
 - If bleeding occurs, apply gentle pressure with a clean gauze for 10–15 minutes.
 - If bleeding continues heavily, contact your doctor.
 3. **Pain/Discomfort:**
 - Mild soreness is common.
 - Over-the-counter pain relief (e.g., paracetamol) can be used if needed.
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Wound Care

1. **Cleaning:**
 - After removing the dressing (usually the next day), gently wash the area with mild soap and water.
 - Pat dry with a clean towel.
 2. **Moisturizing/Protection:**
 - Apply a thin layer of antibiotic ointment or petroleum jelly to keep the area moist and help healing.
 - Cover with a clean bandage if needed, especially if the area may rub against clothing.
 3. **Showering:**
 - Showering is usually safe after 24 hours.
 - Avoid soaking in baths, hot tubs, or swimming pools for **1–2 weeks** to reduce infection risk.
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What to Expect

- **Scab formation:** A small scab may form; do **not pick or scratch**.
- **Redness or mild swelling:** Usually resolves in a few days.
- **Healing time:** Most shave biopsies heal within 1–2 weeks; shave excisions may take slightly longer.
- **Scar:** Minimal scarring is expected; may fade over months.

Activity

- Avoid strenuous activity or friction that could disturb the wound for the first few days.
- Protect the area from sun exposure; use sunscreen once healed to prevent darkening of the scar.

Signs to Watch For (Seek Medical Attention)

- Increasing redness, swelling, or warmth around the site
- Pus or foul-smelling discharge
- Excessive bleeding
- Severe pain that is not relieved by simple painkillers
- Fever

Follow-Up

- Your doctor may provide results if it was a biopsy.
- Any stitches (if used in a larger shave excision) may need removal in 1–2 weeks.