



## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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

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## 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.