HILTON HEAD DERMATOLOGY & SKIN CANCER CENTER, P.A.

Certified, American Board of Dermatology • Certified, American Board of Mohs Micrographic Surgery and Cutaneous Oncology

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Cosmetic Laser Surgery
Diseases of the Skin, Hair, & Nails
Dermatologic Reconstructive Surgery
Mohs Micrographic Skin Cancer Surgery

What Is A Biopsy?

A "Biopsy" is the removal of a small sample of a growth on the skin by your dermatologist. The sample is then sent to the pathologist, a doctor who examines this sample under a microscope and renders a diagnosis regarding the type of growth or disease present.

Your doctor 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 to determine the best possible way to treat you. It generally takes up to **14 working days** for the pathology results on paraffin sections to be returned. Should there be a problem that requires a change in treatment or additional surgery for cancerous roots, we will call you. We do not routinely call patients for benign biopsy results. If you are curious as to your results after 14 working days, please contact us at your convenience. All Excisions & Mohs surgical procedures are done at our Hilton Head office.

These are the charges when a biopsy is performed:

- The dermatologist for removal of the tissue to be examined
- The pathologist for microscopic evaluation of the tissue (billed on a different date)
- The laboratory for preparation of the microscopic slide.
- The consultant pathologist and special stain may also be needed in rare occasions.

Follow-up Needed

The biology of your lesion, whether malignant or not, will not significantly change your treatment in 14 working days. If the sample proves to be malignant, you are strongly encouraged to follow up for treatment. Even though the area may look well healed, microscopic cancerous roots need to be treated. Without treatment, it is possible for skin cancers to damage the body by continuing to grow and spread.

Care Of Biopsy Site

1. Keep wound dry for the first 24 hours.
2. Wash your hands with soap and water and remove the dressing.
3. Cleanse the biopsy with mild soap and water.
4. Thoroughly dry the area and apply a small amount of ointment.
5. Place a small dressing or band-aid over the wound changing once a day for one week.
6. Take Tylenol for any discomfort.
7. Should redness excess ¼" width pain drainage or odor persist for more than a few days please call the office for an appointment.
8. **Should bleeding occur, apply firm constant pressure for 20 minutes**.

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

Emergencies Only

(Only after 5pm)

(843) 290-4927

Make a phone call. Do not text or e-mail.

If unable to reach any one at the above number, go to the emergency room

15 Hospital Center Blvd., Medical Quarters Suite 1 • Hilton Head, SC 29926 • (843) 689-9200

Fellow, American Academy of Dermatology • Fellow, American Society for Dermatologic Surgery

Fellow, American College of Mohs Surgery and Cutaneous Oncology • Fellow, American Society of Laser Medicine and Surgery

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