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BIOPSY/CRYOSURGERY

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 a pathologist, a doctor who examines the sample under a microscope to render a diagnosis regarding the type of growth or disease. Your physician 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 physician determine the best possible course of treatment.

Post-Procedure Care of Biopsy Site

The following procedure will help the healing process after your biopsy.

1. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.
2. Cleanse the biopsy site with peroxide and water – a one half to one half solution.
3. Thoroughly dry the area and apply a small amount of antibiotic ointment (Polysporin[®], Bacitracin[®], triple antibiotic ointment, or similar wound ointment.)
4. Place a small dressing or band aid over the wound until the wound is healed.

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

Charges

You will receive two charges when a biopsy is performed:

1. The dermatologist charges for the removal of the tissue to be examined, and
2. The pathologist charges for the preparation and evaluation of the tissue under the microscope.

In many cases, microscopic evaluation of the tissue will also be performed by the dermatologist. Therefore, both services may be billed by the dermatologist.

WHAT IS CRYOSURGERY?

Cryosurgery is the treatment of lesions with the application of a cold substance. In most cases, liquid nitrogen is used to destroy the lesions(s). After treatment with liquid nitrogen, there may be some burning sensation or pain that can last up to 24 hours. The discomfort can be relieved with extra strength Tylenol[®], or a similar pain relief medication.

Within 24 to 48 hours a blister may form. This blister will eventually dry up.

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Post-Procedure Care of Cryosurgery Site

The following procedure should be followed TWICE DAILY until the surgery site is healed.

1. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.
2. Clean the blister site as follows:
 - ☐ With mild soap and water, rinse, and pat dry
 - ☐ With peroxide and water – one half to one half solution
3. Apply antibiotic ointment
4. Apply a band-aid loosely over the blister until it is dry
5. **Call our office if signs of infection occur: redness, swelling, heat, increased pain, or yellowish discharge**
6. Return to our office:
 - ☐ **IMMEDIATELY if infection signs listed above occur**
 - ☐ _____ **days**
 - ☐ _____ **week(s)**