

TITLE: Dermal Biopsy Sample Collection

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Revision Number: 0

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should be about ½ exposed. It is normal for the patient to experience a pressure and twisting sensation but no pain.

5. After the blade has sufficiently “cored” or carved out a 3mm cylinder of skin, the skin punch is removed using sterile forceps. It is normal for the area to bleed after the punch is removed. Excess blood is wiped off with sterile 2 x 2 gauze to expose the biopsy site. The entire process resembles a “cookie cutter” effect. The only purpose of the skin punch is to “core” the skin and not to remove the biopsy, much like a cookie cutter.
6. When the skin has been cored and cleared of excess blood, the next step is to remove the biopsy from the rest of the skin. Great care should be taken not to damage the epidermis by crushing it with forceps or by cutting it with a scalpel unnecessarily. The physician or nurse uses the sterile forceps to grab the dermis of the cored skin, pulls up the core to reveal excess dermis and subdermal fat, and uses the sterile scalpel in one or two cutting motions to cut the cored skin free.
7. Once the biopsy has been removed from the skin there will usually be some degree of bleeding which should be absorbed with sterile 2 x 2 gauze. The biopsy site is then covered with sterile Tegaderm and possibly fortified with sterile gauze if the bleeding threatens to soak the Tegaderm and/or the patient’s clothing. This “hole” in the skin will continue to bleed for the rest of the day and may or may not form a scab in a few days’ time.
8. The patient will be informed that the biopsy site should be kept clean. The biopsy site should not be submerged in water (i.e. no swimming, hot tubs, baths, etc.) for a few days time. The bandage should be changed at least once a day and should be changed if it should become wet or damp. Once a substantial scab has formed, or new skin begins to grow over the area and bleeding has stopped, the bandage can be removed. In the long term, minimal scarring may occur. In most cases the biopsy site is indistinguishable within a few months. In a few instances the biopsy site may form a protrusion or bump but will continue to heal normally.
9. Label the biopsy tube containing biopsy medium clearly with patient’s name, DOB and date of collection.

F. History

Effective Date	Revision	Change
07 Apr 2015	0	Initial issue of SOP