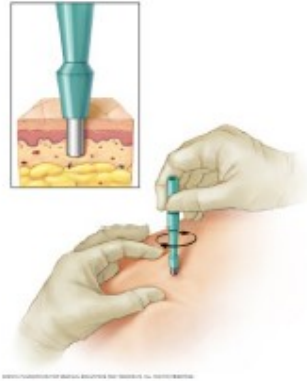
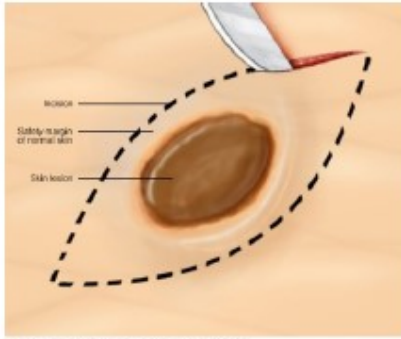


## Skin Biopsy

The doctor uses a skin biopsy to diagnose or rule out certain conditions and diseases. It can also be used to remove skin lesions.

Through biopsy, samples are taken from the area of the skin affected by disease, and then the sample is examined in the laboratory under a microscope, and this leads to provide information related to your medical condition.



### **A skin biopsy may be necessary to diagnose skin conditions and to help treat them, including:**

- Bullous and ulcerative skin disorders
- Eczema, psoriasis, and other inflammatory skin diseases
- Skin cancers, including basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, and melanoma
- Skin infection
- Suspicious moles, warts, or other lesions

### **The risks of skin biopsy**

Skin biopsy is generally a safe process, but complications can occur, including:

- Bleeding
- Bruises
- Scar formation... usually very tiny
- Inflammation of the wound
- Allergy to antibiotics or adhesive

### **How to prepare?**

Before performing a skin biopsy, inform your doctor in the following cases:

- If you are diagnosed with a bleeding disorder
- If you experience excessive bleeding after other medical procedures
- If you take blood thinners, such as aspirin, aspirin, warfarin (Coumadin), or heparin
- If you have a history of skin infection, including herpes near the biopsy site
- If you are taking medications that alter your immune system, such as diabetes medications, steroids, immunosuppressives or others

### **What to expect when taking a biopsy**

1. The patient may be asked to undress, depending on the location of the biopsy.
2. Then the doctor or nurse will clean the area of the skin from which the biopsy will be taken
3. A biopsy may be marked using a pen.
4. Then the doctor gives the patient a local anesthetic using a thin needle (anesthesia may cause a burning sensation in the skin for a few seconds).
5. After the anesthesia the doctor will take the biopsy and the patient will not feel any pain or discomfort during the skin biopsy
6. After completion, stitches are usually used to close the wound
7. A bandage or adhesive is usually applied to protect the wound and prevent bleeding.
8. Skin biopsy usually takes about 15-20 minutes.

### **How to take care of the biopsy site during the recovery period:**

- We usually recommend keeping the bandage on the biopsy site until the next day.
- Sometimes, the biopsy site bleeds a little after you leave the doctor's office. If this happens, press directly to the wound site for 10 to 20 minutes. If the bleeding continues, contact a doctor or emergency department.
- Wash your hands with soap and water before touching the biopsy site
- Wash the biopsy site with soap and water. If the biopsy site is on the scalp, use shampoo
- Rinse well
- Pat the place dry with a clean towel
- Cover the area with an antibiotic cream and adhesive bandage that allows the skin to ventilate
- Continue taking care of the biopsy site until the stitches are removed. Usually this is done after 5 to 10 days depending on the biopsy site.

### **After a skin biopsy**

- All biopsies cause a small scar. A prominent scar may develop rarely in some people.
- At the beginning, the biopsy site will be pink and then fade to white or sometimes brown. The scars gradually disappear.
- Try not to do activities that could stretch the skin. Because this may cause the wound to bleed or open, or to enlarge the scar.
- It can take several weeks for the wound to heal completely, but it is usually completed within two months.

### **Results**

After the biopsy is performed, your doctor will send the sample to the laboratory for examination. Results can take several days up to two weeks, and this waiting period depends on the type of the skin condition, type of biopsy, and laboratory procedures needed.

Your doctor may arrange an appointment for you at the clinic to discuss the test results. If possible, take a family member or someone with you

It may be difficult to absorb all of the information provided during the appointment. The person accompanying you may remember something you may have forgotten or missed