After Your Skin Biopsy
Self-care after your procedure

Dressing and Incision Care

- Keep your dressing (bandage) and wound dry for the first 24 to 48 hours.
- Protect your incision when you shower or bathe by covering it with plastic wrap, such as Saran Wrap, and taping the edges to make it waterproof.
- Keep your shower or bath short – no longer than 15 minutes. Do not take long baths, soak in a hot tub, or go swimming until your wound is completely healed.
- Change your dressing 24 to 48 hours after your biopsy. After that, change the dressing every 24 hours and check how your wound is healing. Apply Vaseline or Aquaphor with each dressing change, and cover with a small bandage.
- After 2 or 3 days, if your biopsy site is small, you do not need to cover it. You may want to continue to put a Band-Aid on the site if your clothing irritates the area or you are concerned about how it looks.
- To clean your incision, gently clean the area with diluted soapy water. Pat the area dry. Do not rub.
- If minor bleeding occurs, apply firm pressure for 10 to 15 minutes. This should stop the bleeding.
- A small amount of redness and a little tenderness around the wound are normal for the first few days. But, increasing tenderness or redness may be a sign of infection.
When to Call Your Doctor or Clinic

Contact your doctor or clinic if you have any of these symptoms:

- Bleeding that will not stop
- Redness that spreads
- Increasing pain
- Purulent (yellow or green pus) drainage
- Fever higher than 100.5°F (38°C)

Follow-up Care

- If you have sutures, they will need to be removed:
  - In about 1 week if they are in your head or neck
  - In about 2 weeks if they are in your torso, arms, or legs
- You will receive your biopsy results by phone or when you go to the clinic for your follow-up visit. If you have not received your results within 3 weeks after your biopsy, call your doctor or clinic.