

VULVAR BIOPSY INSTRUCTIONS

You are having a biopsy of the skin of your outer genital region called the vulva today.

The procedure involves cleaning the area with a disinfectant, often brown in color, to avoid infection. You will then be given a pain shot in the skin at the site of the biopsy. This usually takes only a minute or so to numb the area but may take an hour or so to wear off.

Your health care provider will then remove a small piece of tissue from your skin. This tissue is then sent to a pathologist for it to be analyzed under a microscope. In rare instances, the tissue will not be sent to the pathologist and will just be discarded. Your provider will let you know if the tissue is not being sent for analysis.

Once the tissue is removed your provider may just apply medication to stop the bleeding. Sometimes stitches are needed as well. Your provider will inform you if you have stitches and when you should come back for removal.

After your procedure:

The vulva is not an area that accepts bandaids well. Your provider will apply gauze loosely over the area and you will be given a pad or panty liner to keep you from soiling your clothes.

It is normal for the area of the biopsy to be reddened or even white or black in color for a few days until healing is complete. You may have slight bleeding. If the bleeding is heavy or continuing, apply a clean gauze or cloth for 10 minutes *without lifting up the gauze to look at the site*. If the bleeding continues, repeat this step once. Excessive or continuous bleeding beyond this should be brought to the attention of your provider.

You can bathe and shower normally. Keep the biopsy site clean. You can apply Neosporin ointment with or without lidocaine as needed for both easing of any discomfort while healing and keeping down the risk of infection.

Call the office at **615-778-0010** should you have any excessive bleeding or pain, if you have unexplained fever, or if you suspect the area is infected due to increasing redness or swelling of the biopsy site.

You should receive your biopsy results in 3 business days or less. Please update your phone numbers with the front desk on your way out if you have not already done so today. You can also register to receive results through our secure online patient portal through our website at www.womensgroupfranklin.com. You need to click on the link that says Prime Patient.

Please call us if you have not received your results in 3 business days.