



## Post-Operative Home Care for Biopsy:

During your biopsy, a portion or the entire lesion will be removed. This specimen will be sent to a pathologist for identification. These results will be discussed with you at your follow-up visit. To ensure proper healing of the surgical area, please adhere to the following instructions:

- Eat or drink anything you like or can tolerate
- Do not use straws - suction from straws may open the wound and prevent healing.
- Do not spit
- You should rinse your mouth frequently with salt water (1 tsp. of salt in 8 oz. of water) during the day.
- You may brush your teeth, carefully avoiding the surgical site.
- No smoking for 24 hours

### Following Surgery:

- Use prescription medicine for the pain as soon as you get home, then as directed on the prescription. Be sure to take pain medication with liquids or food.
- Ice may be used at surgical site if desired.
- There may be some swelling at the surgical site. This should begin to subside by the end of the third to fifth day.
- Oozing of blood can be expected during the first 24 hours. Use gauze pads as needed until bleeding subsides.
- Sutures placed during surgery will dissolve by themselves unless you are told otherwise at the time of surgery. Sutures are sometimes prematurely lost following surgery but this is not a problem.
- Inability to open mouth wide is normal for 4-5 days past surgery.
- Get plenty of rest- 8 to 10 hours a night. For 48 hours, keep your head elevated when you are lying down.
- If you received an intravenous (IV) injection during surgery, do not do any heavy exercise or heavy lifting for 4 days past surgery. Rest arm whenever possible. You may remove the band-aid at home.

**Complications:**

The following are regarded as complications. You should contact us as soon as possible if any appear.

- Uncontrolled pain or if pain is not improved after 36 hours.
- Marked temperature rise
- Inability to open mouth after 5<sup>th</sup> day past surgery
- Swelling that persists past 5<sup>th</sup> day or occurs several days after surgery.
- Any persistent irritation at the IV site

CAUTION: You are under medication. DO NOT drive or operate heavy equipment.