

What is a Biopsy?

- A biopsy means cutting out a small piece of skin from an area of concern.
- This skin is sent to a laboratory to be examined under a microscope to see if it is normal or not.
- Sometimes a biopsy does not always give a full answer as to what is wrong but usually helps your doctor in deciding what treatment is needed.

Is it Painful?

- Local anaesthetic is injected with a fine needle.
- There is an initial sting that quickly settles. After this you may feel some pressure on the skin as the biopsy is taken but that should be all.
- The numbness from the injection will last about an hour.

What happens after the Biopsy?

- Bleeding is stopped usually by applying either pressure or a substance to the area to help the blood to clot.
- Sometimes a stitch is needed.
- You will be left with a small wound which normally heals quickly within 1 – 2 weeks.
- By 6 weeks it is usually hard to tell where the biopsy has been taken from.

How do I take care of the Skin afterwards?

- Salt water baths or soaks can help with healing.
- Apply 1 handful of salt to a shallow warm bath or 1/4 teaspoon of salt to a cup of water and soak for 10 - 15 minutes, 2 - 3 times a day for 5 - 7 days.
- Avoid putting soap or talcum powder on the area while it is healing.

When can I start having sex again?

- Sex can be started once the area is comfortable to touch. May take up to two weeks

This fact sheet is designed to provide you with information on disease. It is not intended to replace the need for a consultation with your doctor. All clients are strongly advised to check with their doctor about any specific questions or concerns they may have. Every effort has been taken to ensure that the information in this pamphlet is correct at the time of publishing (2015)

Greenlane Clinical Centre
Bldg 7 Level 3
Greenlane West

South Auckland
12 Waddon Place
Mangere

West Auckland
2nd Floor, 362 Great North Rd
Henderson

North Shore
418 Glenfield Rd
Glenfield

