



Postoperative Instructions for Biopsy Patients

1. **Swelling around the mouth, cheeks, eyes, and neck may follow some surgical procedures.** This is the body's normal reaction and the swelling usually subsides in several days.
2. If bleeding occurs after biopsy, apply pressure with gauze until it subsides. There may be some oozing on the 1st or 2nd days following surgery. Notify the office if bleeding persists beyond 2 days. Depending upon the site of biopsy, you may want to apply ice to the outside of the face to minimize swelling.
3. **In some cases discoloration of the skin follows swelling.** The purplish color may spread from biopsy site to the surrounding area. The purplish color fades into greenish yellow then yellow and back to normal. This discoloration is the result of blood elements spreading beneath the tissue layers. This is a perfectly normal post-operative event, especially in individuals who bruise easily.
4. If biopsy site is outside the mouth, start cleaning the area the day following surgery. Swab area twice daily with peroxide and apply Neosporin to prevent crusting.
5. If biopsy site is inside the mouth, begin rinsing with warm salt water the day after surgery. This should be done after each meal before retiring at night. Use a mixture of ½ teaspoon of salt to a full glass of warm water. **Do not rinse if there is significant bleeding from the biopsy site.** Be sure to brush your teeth.
6. You may want to avoid spicy or acidic foods, because the biopsy area could be quite sensitive to these.

7. If sutures are required, they will dissolve on their own, if for some reason we use non-dissolving sutures, you will be given a follow-up appointment.

8. The biopsy will be sent for a diagnosis and you will either be called or asked to discuss the result.

Please feel free to notify this office of any unusual occurrences or questions. Our telephone number is (910)480-4890.