



# After a Skin Biopsy

## To Learn More

- Your child's clinic  
206-987-2000 or  
1-866-987-2000 for  
hospital operator
- Ask your child's  
healthcare provider
- [www.seattlechildrens.org](http://www.seattlechildrens.org)

Your child had a small piece of skin taken out. This is called a skin biopsy. The sample is taken to get a close look at the cells under a microscope. Before taking the sample of skin, your child got an injection of anesthesia to numb the area.

Different clinics at Seattle Children's do skin biopsies. If you have questions or concerns, please call the clinic where you brought your child for the skin biopsy.

## What can I expect after a skin biopsy?

- The area will be covered with Steri-Strips and a tight bandage to keep it from bleeding too much.
- You can take the outer bandage off the day after the biopsy is taken. You should leave the Steri-Strips on until they fall off on their own.
- Have your child wait to bathe or shower until the outer bandage is removed. It's OK to get the Steri-Strips slightly wet, but avoid soaking the area in a tub for long periods of time.
- A small amount of blood on the outer bandage is normal.
- Most children do not need pain medicine after a skin biopsy. The effect of the numbing shot given before the biopsy was taken will last for about 1 hour.

## Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital,  
ask your child's nurse.
- From outside the  
hospital, call the  
toll-free Family  
Interpreting Line  
1-866-583-1527. Tell the  
interpreter the name or  
extension you need.
- For Deaf and hard of  
hearing callers  
206-987-2280 (TTY).

## When should I call my child's clinic?

If you notice any of these warning signs, call:

- Oozing of blood that leaks outside the bandage
- Fever of 101°F (38.3°C)
- Redness, swelling, tenderness or pain at the site

For information or concerns about your child, call your child's clinic provider.

## Who should I call if there are any problems?

**If your child got a biopsy at the Hematology/Oncology clinic, please call:**

- The Hematology-Oncology Clinic, 206-987-2106
- The SCCA Clinic, 206-288-7600

**If your child got a biopsy at the Genetics clinic, please call:**

- The Genetics Clinic at 206-987-2056
- The Biochemical Genetics Clinic, 206-987-3012

Seattle Children's offers interpreter services for Deaf, hard of hearing or non-English speaking patients, family members and legal representatives free of charge. Seattle Children's will make this information available in alternate formats upon request. Call the Family Resource Center at 206-987-2201.

This handout has been reviewed by clinical staff at Seattle Children's. However, your child's needs are unique. Before you act or rely upon this information, please talk with your child's healthcare provider.

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