

Biopsy Information & Care Instructions

What You Should Know

If you have any questions please contact our billing department toll-free at 1-866-630-9882.

What is a biopsy?

A “biopsy” is the removal of a small sample of skin by your dermatologist, physician assistant (PA), or nurse practitioner (NP). The sample is then sent to a dermatopathologist, a physician who specializes in diagnosing conditions by examining tissues under a microscope. Your dermatologist, PA, or NP reviews the examination results provided by the dermatopathologist and determines the best possible treatment plan for you.

Your results

Your results are usually ready within 10 business days of your biopsy. You will be notified of your results as soon as they are available. Results that do not require further treatment will only be communicated via our electronic patient portal. All other results will be delivered via phone call. It is likely that you will be notified of results being available in your patient portal before your dermatologist, PA, or NP sees them. When further explanation or treatment for your condition is recommended, it is best to wait for communication directly from our office, as your dermatologist, PA, or NP is best trained to interpret your results based on your specific medical history and condition. If you have not received results via our portal or heard from us in 10 business days, or have further questions, please call our medical staff at _____.

Visit Forefront Dermatology’s website at <https://forefrontdermatology.com/> for a link to our PATIENT PORTAL as well as information on common dermatologic CONDITIONS & TREATMENTS. Your health and wellbeing are very important to us. Please note that seeking advice regarding your condition from someone other than your Forefront dermatologist, PA, or NP may lead to potential misinformation and unnecessary concern.

Care of the biopsy site

1. Leave the bandage in place for 24 hours.
2. After 24 hours, remove the bandage.
3. Cleanse the biopsy site with soap and water.
4. Apply Vaseline/Aquaphor (It is recommended that you purchase a NEW tube to apply to your surgical site.)
5. Apply a new band-aid or bandage.
6. Repeat steps 2-5 once a day until the wound heals or the sutures are removed.
7. If the area begins to bleed, take the following steps:
 - Apply pressure to the bleeding area for 20 minutes without looking and apply a bandage when stopped.
 - If still bleeding, repeat the application of pressure for another 20 minutes and apply a bandage when stopped.
 - If still bleeding, please call the clinic.

Pain is generally minimal, sometimes moderate. Tylenol, as prescribed in the package insert, should be sufficient. If you have pain not relieved by Tylenol, please call our office.

Healing process

The average time for the biopsy site to heal is 3 to 8 weeks. The site may have a pink to yellowish appearance during the healing process or develop a red edge and look gummy in the middle. This is not an infection; it is normal. Itching or redness around the biopsy or shave site is usually a reaction to the adhesive from the bandage. If you develop redness spreading larger than a half dollar, pain, red streaks, or develop thick green or yellow discharge, please call our office right away.

Understanding Your Biopsy Billing

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Who diagnoses my biopsy?

After your skin sample arrives at the lab, it is processed and placed on a glass slide by highly trained lab technicians using state-of-the-art equipment. A specialized physician called a dermatopathologist then examines your skin cells under a microscope to diagnose your condition. The dermatopathologist collaborates with your treating physician, PA, or NP to ensure you receive an accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment plan.

Why is my biopsy sent to Forefront Laboratory?

Your dermatologist chose the Forefront laboratory given the dermatopathologist's expertise, strong supporting technical team, and state-of-the-art lab equipment. In addition, your dermatologist has direct access to the Forefront laboratory team, which allows them to provide additional information to aid your diagnosis and discuss your specific results before communicating them to you. Finally, the Forefront dermatopathologists have access to your electronic medical record, given they are part of Forefront Dermatology. In many cases, your prior history can be critical to providing the best possible diagnosis. Forefront is the only laboratory that would have access to your electronic medical record.

Dermatopathologist names you may see on your bill:

- Kelli Hutchens, MD
- Ling Xia, MD
- Willmar Patino, MD
- John Pujals, MD
- Brent Weed, MD
- Douglas Hansen, MD
- Eric Hanson, MD
- K. Mireille Chae, MD
- Solomon Shockman, MD
- Charles Schultz, MD
- Bruce Leckey, DO
- Diane Perkins, MD

Charges on your bill



Your local **dermatologist or other provider charges** for the evaluation and removal of the tissue to be examined.



Depending on your insurance, each **lab charge** will be displayed either in two parts (technical and professional components) or globally (single component). Whether billed in separate components or globally, your cost is the same.

- **Technical Component—displayed as TC (example: 88305TC).** The preparation of your tissue on a slide for evaluation is called the **technical component**. You will see the name of our Laboratory Medical Director, Kelli Hutchens, MD, on your billing statement. Dr. Hutchens oversees the process to ensure the quality and integrity of the specimen.
- **Professional Component—displayed as PC (example: 88305 PC).** The dermatopathologist's evaluation and diagnosis of your tissue is called the **professional component**.
- **Global Charge (example: 88305).** A **global charge** includes both the professional and technical components in a single charge.



Additional charges or bills (bill code examples: 88312, 88313, 88341, 88342, 88344, 88346, 88350). Occasionally **additional charges** may occur if the dermatopathologist must order additional in-house tests to render a final diagnosis. On very rare occasions, and in the interest of providing the highest quality care for you, the dermatopathologists may send your case out to be reviewed by another facility or doctor who is nationally or world-renowned for specialized molecular testing or diagnostic expertise in a specific disease subspecialty.