Biopsy Information

A biopsy is the removal of tissue from the body. The tissue is looked at under a microscope to see what is wrong. Tissue can be removed in several different ways. A surgical biopsy means a piece of tissue is removed by minor surgery. Stitches may be used to close the skin. Special needles and other instruments can also be used to get small pieces of tissue.

Most biopsy specimens are examined by specialists. This is done after the tissue is specially prepared. Small slices are then placed on slides and looked at under a microscope. Most of the time, this process takes 3 days to complete the tissue preparation and exam. Pathologists (the specialist) are usually able to give a diagnosis after looking at the slides. Call your caregiver if you have questions about your biopsy procedure or the results.

Make sure you know when and how you are supposed to get your results. Do not assume everything is fine if you do not hear from your caregiver.

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