Mole Excision

Your caregiver has removed (excised) a mole. Most moles are benign (non cancerous). Some moles may change over time and require biopsy (tissue sample) and/or removal. The mole usually is removed by shaving or cutting it from the skin. You will have stitches in your skin if the mole is large. A small mole, or one that is shaved off, may require only a small bandage. Your caregiver will send a piece of the mole to the laboratory (*pathology*) to examine it under a microscope for signs of cancer. Make sure you get your biopsy results when you return for your follow-up visit. Call if there is no return visit.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- If the biopsied area was the arm or leg, keep it raised (above the level of your heart) to decrease pain and swelling, if you are having any.
- Keep the wound and dressing clean and dry. Clean as necessary.
- If the dressing gets wet, remove it slowly and carefully. If it sticks, use warm, soapy water to gently loosen it. Pat the area dry with a *clean* towel before putting on another dressing.
- Return in 7 days to have your *sutures* (stitches) removed.
- Call in 3 to 4 days, or as directed, for the results of your biopsy.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You have an oral temperature above 102º F (38.9º C) associated with *inflammation* (soreness) of the surgical site.
- You have excess blood soaking through the dressing.
- You have increasing pain and swelling in the wound.
- You have numbness or swelling below the wound.
- You have redness, swelling, pus, a bad smell, or red streaks coming away from the wound, or any other signs of infection.

MAKE SURE YOU:

- Understand these instructions.
- Will watch your condition.
- Will get help right away if you are not doing well or get worse.

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