



Patient Information: Minor Procedures

by Dr. Jose Erbella

Procedures	Removal of Skin Lesions, Subcutaneous Masses, & Lymph Node Biopsy
Incision Care	Remove any dressing(s) in 24hrs. The incision(s) may be sealed with sutures , a skin adhesive (Dermabond) or covered with white adhesive tapes known as steri-strips . Either way, there is no need to cover up the incisions again with gauze. If there are sutures, apply antibiotic ointment (Neosporin) to them daily.
Shower	You may shower 24 hours after surgery & get the incision(s) or steri-strips wet with soapy water and gently pad them dry. If the steri-strips come off in the shower, do not become concerned. If they are still in place 10 days after surgery, you may remove them.
Pain Medications	You will be given a prescription for a narcotic pain medication (usually Lortab or Percocet). Options for non-constipating pain medications include products that include Ibuprofen or Tylenol. To combat constipation, you may take a stool softener (Colace) twice each day.
Diet	You may eat anything you desire. If your throat is sore, try eating soft foods.
Activity	Do not do any heavy lifting (more than 10 pounds) or vigorous exercise for 2-3 weeks .
Return to Work	You may resume work in 2-5 days .
Physician Appointment	Call (941) 896-4788 to make your post-operative appointment to see Dr. Erbella in 1-2 week or if you have any questions.
Biopsy Results	It normally takes 3-5 working days to process the biopsy by our pathology lab. This usually works out well so we can review your pathology with you on your follow-up visit.
When to call your Surgeon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Persistent fever over 101.5 degrees F (39 C). Pain that is not relieved by your medications. Persistent nausea or vomiting. Persistent cough or shortness of breath. Purulent drainage (pus) or bleeding from any incision. Redness surrounding any of your incisions that is worsening or getting bigger. If you are unable to eat or drink liquids.
In Case of Emergency	Dr. Erbella is available 24hrs a day. You may call either our office (941) 896-4788, your nearest emergency room at Blake, Lakewood Ranch or Manatee Hospitals or Dial 911.