



RAVALLI FAMILY MEDICINE

411 WEST MAIN  
HAMILTON, MT 59840  
(406) 363-5104

[www.ravallifamilymedicine.com](http://www.ravallifamilymedicine.com)

LAWRENCE D. BROUWER, MD  
KATHLEEN HARDER-BROUWER, MD  
ALLISUN JENSEN, PA-C  
SHAUN LALONDE, PA-C

## **BIOPSY/EXCISION OF SKIN LESION, CYSTS, OR CANCER**

**RISKS & EXPECTATIONS:** Any procedure involves some risks and hazards.

These include but are not limited to:

- Bleeding
- Infection, with redness, swelling and discharge. Antibiotics may be needed to treat this.
- A scar is anticipated where the lesion was removed and is often three times the length of the lesion to be removed. This usually fades with time but may always be visible. In a few people, scar tissue may overgrow (keloid) making the scar more noticeable.
- Another procedure may be necessary after pathological evaluation of lesion.
- Local anesthetic risks include racing heart, feeling flushed, nausea, edema redness at site of injection, or very rarely a systemic allergic reaction.

## **POST-PROCEDURE CARE**

1. Keep the site covered with the bandage today. Starting tomorrow remove bandage, wash the site with warm soap and water, apply fresh Vaseline or antibiotic ointment and a new bandage. Do this daily until the sutures are removed. It may be necessary to reapply ointment and a dry dressing more than once a day.
2. It is okay to shower and shampoo but no soaking in baths, hot tubs, or swimming while the sutures are in place. If the site is on your hand use gloves while washing dishes.
3. It is important to cover the site daily with Vaseline or antibiotic ointment. Wounds heal faster and the sutures are easier to remove if kept "greasy." Do not let the area dry out.
4. Watch for signs of infection such as increased redness, swelling, pain, heat, or yellow discharge. Call the office if any of these signs occur or if you have any questions or concerns during your healing process.
5. Return for suture removal in \_\_\_\_\_ days.