School of Medicine & Health Sciences

HE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

SKIN BIOPSY? You should <u>**not**</u> take any motrin or aspirin the day before your biopsy.



HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

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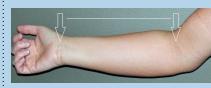


Your doctor will ask you to sign a consent form.



You will be taken into an exam room and your arm will be cleaned with a sterile alcohol pad. Numbing medicine will be placed on the inner side of your forearm. The medicine will stay on for 30 minutes then a dressing is put on to cover it. When it is time, your doctor will wipe off the numbing medicine and clean your arm again and place it on sterile towels.

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Your doctor will test your arm with a forcep to make sure it is numb.



It will take less than 5 minutes for your doctor to obtain a small piece of skin. It should not hurt but you might feel pressure. Only the top two layers of skin are taken. There might be a small amount of bleeding.

If it is numb, your doctor will use a 2-3 mm punch biopsy that looks like the opening of a retractable pen.

Your doctor will clean it off and place a bandaid. The biopsy will be put in a tube of culture medium to grow up the skin cells. There are no restrictions on activity after the biopsy but keep the bandaid for 24 hours and keep it dry.