

WHAT IS DERMATOPATHOLOGY?

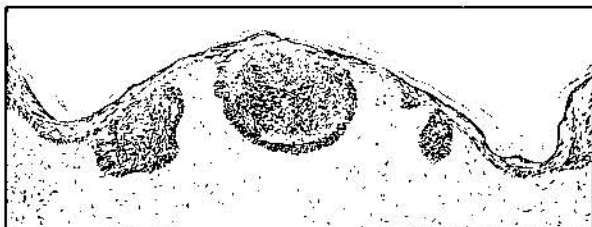
(DER·MA·TO·PA·THOL·O·GY)

Specialized Pathology of the Skin

A dermatopathologist is often referred to as the Sherlock Holmes of skin because, in order to make a definitive diagnosis, he or she must make microscopic observations regarding your skin tissue as well as assess information received from your dermatologist.

Because of this highly specialized pathology, a dermatopathologist should be the diagnostician of choice when your dermatologist suspects various skin disorders. Dermatopathology cases may include melanoma and other skin cancers, as well as immunologic, infectious and pediatric disorders. Since a misdiagnosis of certain skin cancers can be fatal, it is imperative that you and your dermatologist receive the most accurate and timely diagnosis.

Diagnosing your skin tissue is not another automated laboratory test. Dermatopathologists provide a personal, consultative service to your dermatologist, which includes analyzing your medical information in conjunction with observations through the microscope. The ultimate goal is to provide the best possible care for you, the patient.



Microscopic Skin Tissue



POST-BIOPSY WOUND CARE

The wound care tips below along with your dermatologist's instructions should be followed for ____ days.

- Use an over-the-counter pain reliever, such as: _____
- Biopsy site may get wet but do not submerge in water for ____ days.
- When showering, gently cleanse the biopsy site with soap and water.
- After cleansing, apply a topical antibiotic cream or ointment. If biopsy site becomes inflamed, itchy, or blisters, discontinue topical antibiotic immediately as you are probably allergic to the ointment or cream.
- Except when cleansing, always keep the biopsy site covered with an adhesive bandage.
- Avoid putting excessive pressure on the biopsy site or sutured area.
- Generally there are no activity restrictions, with the following exceptions: ____

Additional Instructions: ____

If your skin biopsy required sutures, schedule a follow-up appointment in ____ days for removal.

Should we need to review your biopsy results with you, we will communicate:

- By Phone At Your Next Appointment

Other: _____

Post-biopsy discomfort should be minimal. If you are experiencing significant pain, bleeding or redness, you might have an infection. Call your dermatologist or seek professional medical care promptly.

PERIODIC SELF-EXAMINATION

Aids in the recognition of any new or evolving lesions. Consult your dermatologist if changes are noticed.

	STEP 1	Examine your body front and back in the mirror, then right and left sides, arms raised.
	STEP 2	Bend elbows and look carefully at forearms and upper arms and palms.
	STEP 3	Look at the backs of legs and feet, spaces between toes and soles.
	STEP 4	Examine back of neck and scalp with a hand mirror. Part hair for a closer look at scalp.
	STEP 5	Finally, check back and buttocks with a hand mirror.