

Nursing Instructions

Punch Biopsy of the Skin

Nonsterile Tray for Anesthesia

Place the following items on a nonsterile drape covering a Mayo stand:

- Nonsterile gloves
- 1 inch of 4 × 4 gauze soaked with povidone-iodine solution
- 3-mL syringe filled with 2 percent lidocaine with epinephrine (Xylocaine with epinephrine)
- 30-gauge needle
- Labeled formalin container(s) for the number of biopsies to be performed

Sterile Tray for the Procedure

Place the following items on a sterile drape covering a Mayo stand:

- Sterile gloves (Some physicians choose to perform the procedure using the nonsterile gloves that were used to administer the anesthesia.)
- Desired punch biopsy instrument (3 or 4 mm)
- Needle holder for suturing
- Desired size suture (4-0, 5-0 or 6-0 nylon suture, depending on body site)
- Iris scissors
- 21-gauge, 1¼-inch needle for elevating the specimen (Alternatively, the nonsterile anesthesia needle can be used.)
- Sterile fenestrated drape (Some physicians choose to perform the procedure without a covering drape.)

Postprocedure Nursing Instructions

- Cleanse the area with saline or water if blood or povidone-iodine solution remain on the skin following the procedure. Apply antibiotic ointment and a bandage to the site. The patient can apply pressure to the site if any bleeding is noted.
- The anesthesia needles, suture needles and disposable punch biopsy instrument are disposed of in an appropriate sharps container.
- The bloody gauze is disposed of in an appropriate biohazard waste container.
- The instruments are scrubbed, washed, rinsed and dried. The instruments are placed in a clear sterilization packet, individually or as a surgical tray, and sterilized in the autoclave.

Adapted with permission from Zuber TJ. Office Procedures. Baltimore: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 1999.