

## BIOPSY CARE

Please read this information sheet. If you have any questions, particularly about the treatment or potential side-effects, please ask your doctor.

- A biopsy is the taking of a small piece of tissue for microscopic examination usually carried out after a local anaesthetic injection in the area, such as used for fillings
- The biopsy procedure is virtually painless, though when the injection wears off after a couple of hours a little soreness will be experienced
- Sutures or a dressing may or may not be used
- Sutures may be resorbable or need to be removed in the next week.
- It is usually not a problem if the dressing is lost or the suture comes out earlier than one week
- To aid healing and make you more comfortable, we suggest:

### 0-6 hours

- avoid rinsing
- avoid hot drinks
- avoid alcohol
- avoid cleaning your teeth

### 6-24 hours

- brush your teeth as normal after meals, using your toothbrush away from the surgical area, and *Corsodyl* gel

### 24 hours and after

- keep your mouth as clean as possible
- brush your teeth as normal after meals, using your toothbrush away from the surgical area, and *Corsodyl* gel
- rinse with hot, salt mouthwash after meals. (To make this up, dissolve a level teaspoon of salt in a cup of warm water and rinse for about a minute)

- Biopsy, like any interventional procedure may occasionally result in complications such as a little
  - bleeding : *do not panic*: pressure for 5-10 minutes from a gauze swab will almost invariably stop the bleeding
  - soreness or pain : paracetamol taken before the injection wears off usually controls this; do not use aspirin - it can cause bleeding
  - swelling: this should subside spontaneously over 3-4 days
  - bruising: this should clear spontaneously over 4-5 days
- Rarely there may be
  - altered sensation
    - restricted mouth opening
    - reactions to drugs
    - allergies
    - infection
- We will give you a swab to bite on for 10 minutes if there is bleeding but, if you are at all concerned, kindly telephone for further advice
- **0207 915 1038 (fax 0207 915 1039)** (07.30-17.00 working days) OR failing that
- **01923 896 530** at other times OR failing that
- e-mail Professor Scully via **Scully.c@eastman.ucl.ac.uk**
- However, there are usually no long-term consequences. The scar is usually almost invisible, any discomfort goes quickly and any slight numbness recovers.

*A patient has the right under common law to give or withhold consent to medical examination or treatment. This is one of the basic principles of health care. Patients are entitled to receive sufficient information in a way they can understand about the proposed treatments, the possible alternatives and any substantial risk or risks which may be special in kind or magnitude or special to the patient, so that they can make a balanced judgement. (UK Health Dept. 19.2.99. HSC 1999/031)*

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