



Oral Biopsy

An oral biopsy is a procedure used to determine what is causing a lesion or discomfort in the mouth.

Although there are many ways to perform an oral biopsy, most can be performed in the doctor's office and only take a few minutes.

What is Involved in Most Oral Biopsies?

- Numbing medicine (either a spray, a tiny injection, or both) may be used.
- A piece of the lesion is removed.
- Pressure is applied with gauze to stop any small amount of bleeding that may result from the biopsy.
- A chemical cautery (e.g. silver nitrate) may be used to stop the bleeding.



Types of Oral Biopsies

Incisional Biopsy

A piece of the suspicious lesion is removed. The biopsy must be deep enough so that the pathologist can make a diagnosis.



Please note that this information is intended for educational purposes. It does not replace consultation with your doctor, and it should not be interpreted as medical advice. We encourage you to speak to your health care provider if you have further questions or concerns regarding your medical care.

For more information scan this code or visit:

<https://thancguide.org/cancer-basics/diagnosis/biopsy/oral/>

Types of Oral Biopsies (continued)

Excisional Biopsy

The whole area of concern is removed. Although doctors will usually start with an incisional biopsy to make a diagnosis before removing the entire lesion, sometimes the lesion is small enough for an excisional biopsy to be performed instead.

Punch Biopsy

A type of incisional biopsy in which a hand-held, pencil-shaped surgical tool is used to cut a small core of tissue from the suspicious area. This method can help determine the thickness of the lesion.

Brush Biopsy

A few cells are scraped off the surface of a suspicious lesion. This method doesn't get into deeper layers of tissue and may not provide a definitive diagnosis. However, it can provide some useful information, which can lead to a diagnosis of cancer. It is often used by dentists.

Fine-needle Aspiration Biopsy (FNA)

A doctor places a small needle in the tumor and draws out cells through a syringe. A pathologist then analyzes these cells under a microscope. Multiple samples might be necessary for proper analysis.

Surgical Biopsy

Some oral biopsies may be performed in the operating room if the patient can't tolerate an in-office biopsy or if a more extensive procedure is anticipated.



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