



# Skin Biopsy

If a doctor finds a suspicious lesion on the skin, they may perform a skin biopsy to determine the cause of the abnormality. This procedure is typically performed in the doctor's office with the use of local anesthesia. The sample obtained is later evaluated by a pathologist. Below you will find descriptions of different skin biopsy methods.

## Incisional Biopsy

A piece of the suspicious lesion is cut out and sent to a pathologist for review. The biopsy must be deep enough so that the pathologist can make a diagnosis. The pathologist's diagnosis will allow your physician to determine whether the rest of the lesion needs further treatment or complete removal.

## Punch Biopsy

A hand-held, pencil-shaped surgical tool is used to remove a small cylinder of tissue from the suspicious area. This method can help determine the depth of the lesion.

## Excisional Biopsy

The whole area of concern is removed. The sample is sent for analysis under a microscope. Stitches may be necessary to close the skin depending on the size of the lesion, and a small scar will be apparent.

## Shave Biopsy

A sharp blade is used to remove a thin layer of tissue. This type of biopsy is typically performed when there is low suspicion that the lesion is cancerous.



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/skin/>