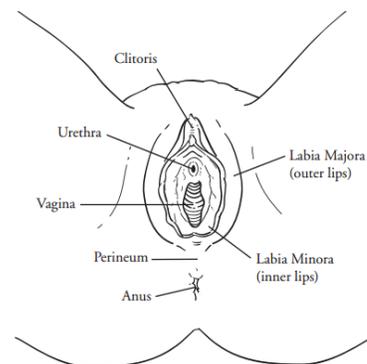


## Vulvar Biopsy After-Care

**Why is it done?** A vulvar biopsy is done to diagnose specific skin conditions and/or to rule out possible cancer in suspicious looking lesions.

**Where was my biopsy taken?**



**What can I expect after my biopsy?** You may have discomfort or pain at the biopsy site when the local freezing wears off. Taking ibuprofen or acetaminophen may help. A clotting agent (Monsel's solution) may have been used to stop bleeding and can leave a yellow or black residue. You may notice light spotting from the site. You may have some mid itching or swelling as the area heals over the next one to two weeks. If you have a stitch it will take 2 to 3 weeks to dissolve.

**How should I care for the biopsy site?** Keep the biopsy site clean. You can rinse with water in the shower. A sitz bath can be soothing; sit in a clean tub or sitz bath with plain water for 10 minutes. Pour plain water over the site after urinating or bowel movements. Use a 'peri-bottle' (any bottle you can fill with water and squirt gently). Apply Vaseline or topical polysporin to the biopsy site twice a day for the first week.

**What if there is bleeding?** If there is bleeding, apply firm pressure for a few minutes until the bleeding stops. If it does not stop sit on a rolled towel for 10 minutes.

**Can I have intercourse?** You can have intercourse as soon as the biopsy site is comfortable.

**What if I think I have an infection?** If the area is very red and swollen and you notice discharge from the site you may have an infection. This usually starts about 5 days after the biopsy was taken. Topical antibiotics are usually all that is needed to treat the infection. See your physician if it does not improve in 2 days of treatment.

**When will I get my results?** The pathology report is usually available within 2 weeks. If you have not been informed of the results within that time, please call us at the Centre for Vulvar Health. Please ask to speak to the Nurse in the Centre for Vulvar Health.