

Patient's Instructions

Vulvar and Vaginal Biopsy

What is a vulvar/vaginal biopsy?

A vulvar/vaginal biopsy takes one or more tissue sample from the vulva or the vagina. The vulvar is the outer parts of the female genitals, including the labia, which is often called the lips, and the clitoris. The vagina is the opening that leads to the cervix, which is the entrance to the uterus.

Why is a vulvar/vaginal biopsy needed?

A biopsy is done to determine why you may have noticed itching, redness, swelling or changes in color to your vulva or vagina. It may also be done if you have a lump or sore that has recently appeared.

What happens during the procedure?

The biopsy area will be cleaned with an antiseptic liquid. If you are having a vaginal biopsy, the provider will use a speculum, the instrument that is used during your pap smear, to open your vagina. Numbing medicine will be injected into the area that is going to be biopsied. One or more small pieces of tissue will be removed and sent to the lab for analysis. If you require stitches, dissolvable stitches will most likely be used, which do not require your provider to remove them. You may feel some discomfort and pressure during the procedure, this is normal.

What are the risks?

A small risk of bleeding and infection are possible with this procedure.

What should I do to prepare for the procedure?

You may be asked to trim you pubic hair in the area where the biopsy will take place, or this may be done by the medical staff/provider prior to the biopsy.

What should I expect during recovery?

Keep the area clean and dry as possible. You may bathe or shower as soon as you would like after the procedure. After cleaning, please gently pat the area dry with a clean towel.

Call your provider is you experience:

Redness, swelling and skin that is warm to the touch in biopsy area
Fever (100.4 or greater) in the 10 days following the procedure
Foul-smelling vaginal discharge
Heavy vaginal bleeding

If you experience any of these, please call the office at (910) 295-0290