



TALLAHASSEE EAR, NOSE & THROAT - HEAD & NECK SURGERY, P.A.

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GENERAL BIOPSIES AND EXCISIONS

Your provider has recommended that you have a biopsy or excision of a mass. The specimen is sent to pathology to identify the makeup of the mass, which will usually give us a definitive diagnosis for treatment. These results can take three to five working days to come back from the lab. At your provider's direction, this procedure can be done in either the office or at a surgical facility.

If the procedure is done in the office, there may be no special preparation required by the patient. However, if the patient is on a blood thinner (i.e. Coumadin or Aspirin) then they may need to be taken off of it for a period of time. Direction from the prescribing physician is obtained prior to the procedure.

The office procedure will be done under a local anesthesia and you can return to normal activities as tolerated. Postoperative instructions are available as needed. Use only Tylenol or other pain medication prescribed by your surgeon. Only take the pain medication that you have been prescribed or directed to take by your physician.

For procedures that are scheduled at a surgical facility, there will be specific preoperative instructions supplied. A preoperative nurse will talk with you by phone or in person prior to the procedure to discuss eating and drinking restrictions, obtain your past medical history, and answer any questions you may have.

Certain anesthetics and pain medications used at the surgical facility may produce nausea and vomiting which usually resolves by the evening of the surgery. If the procedure was done under local or using sedation only, then you may have fewer reactions. Postoperative wound instructions will be made available to you prior to discharge from the facility. In general, you will probably have a prescription for a pain medication and sometimes an antibiotic. Any antibiotic should be taken as prescribed for as many days as your surgeon has recommended. Only take the pain medication that you have been prescribed or directed to take by your physician.

Symptoms to expect, whether done in the office or at the surgical facility, can include moderate discomfort the first night. This should improve each day. There may be a mild fever, but generally not above 101.5 degrees after the first night. There will be a mild bit of swelling during the first 24-36 hours. You may have a mild sore throat if general anesthetic is used. There may be a mild bit of bloody oozing during the first night, but this generally resolves by the next day.