



York Vascular Artery and Vein Clinic

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Bilateral Temporal Artery Biopsy – Discharge Instructions

The bilateral temporal artery segment was removed on bilateral sides of your forehead to diagnose inflammation of the blood vessel called Giant Cell Arteritis. The incision was closed with dissolvable sutures and covered with Steri-Strips and outside dressing. The bilateral sides of your forehead were frozen and might feel numb for the rest of the day.

Specific advice:

- Your wound may be painful for the next 24 hrs. You can take Tylenol 500-1000 mg by mouth every 6 hours as needed.
- Please continue with all your previous medications.
- If the wound is bleeding, apply pressure for 20 minutes. If bleeding fails to stop, repeat applying pressure for another 30 minutes. If bleeding fails to stop, seek medical attention.
- Remove the outside dressing after 48 hours.
- You can shower after 3rd day, but dry your wounds afterwards.
- Remove the Steri-Strips (inside dressing tapes) after four days (easily come off when wet).
- Once dressings are removed, apply Polysporin ointment three times a day for one week.
- Please call my clinic to schedule a wound check to follow up within two weeks.

The samples of the artery was sent to the pathologist who will look closely at the artery wall under the microscope to assess for signs of inflammation. The results of your biopsy will usually be reported in a few days. Please follow-up with your rheumatologist or the referring physician.

Seek medical attention and call our clinic if you experience:

- Prolonged bleeding from the site of biopsy
- Redness, swelling or discharge from the site of the biopsy
- Excessive pain not relieved by Tylenol
- Vision changes

Comprehensive care for patients with Artery and Vein conditions

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