

# BIOPSY FOR SKIN DISEASE



## SUITABLE SAMPLES

*Good:* neoplasia, immune mediated disease, nodules, lesions in the panniculus, unexplained lesions

*Poor:* chronic or recurrent disease, allergies, sarcopties, overwhelming infection

## EQUIPMENT

8mm punch biopsy for truncal dermal lesions

4mm punch biopsy for dermal face and foot pad lesions

Scalpel for wedge biopsy of deep or large lesions

Biopsy surgical kit – drape, swaps, forceps, scissors, non absorbable suture

Formalin pots.

## WHAT TO BIOPSY

Primary lesions- pustules and papules

Areas immediately adjacent to an ulcer/erosion (not the ulcer)

Depigmenting areas (bluish), not completely depigmented areas (white)

For alopecia an area that is most affected, an intermediate zone and an area that is least affected (eg haired skin of flank)

## TECHNIQUE

Do NOT surgically prepare the skin- don't disrupt any crusts or pustules. Clip hair gently only if necessary

Rotate punch in the same direction with gentle pressure. Do not rotate back and forth.

Gentle tissue handling- only grasp the biopsy by the base (subcutis). Do NOT grab the dermis with forceps

Place in formalin, label pot.

Take at least 4-6 representative samples of the skin disease.