YOUR ALLY IN DERM: THE DERMATOPATHOLOGIST

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DISCLOSURES

We have no relevant disclosures.
There is no discussion of off label medication use.
OUTLINE

1. What is a dermpath?
2. The better the biopsy, the better the diagnosis
3. Biopsy of tumors and inflammatory conditions
4. The more you share, the more we care
WHAT IS A DERMATOPATHOLOGIST?

Medical School (4 years) → Pathology Residency (4 years) → Dermatopathology Fellowship (1-2 years) → Dermatology Residency (4 years)

→ Dermatology Residency (4 years)
WHAT DOES SKIN LOOK LIKE UNDER THE MICROSCOPE?

- Epidermis
  - Stratum corneum
  - Stratum spinosum
  - Stratum basale
- Dermis
- Hair Follicle
- Glands
How should we biopsy this?

A. 8mm punch of the entire lesion
B. 3mm punch biopsy from the center of the lesion
C. Refer to dermatology
D. Small shave biopsy of the dark portion
How should we biopsy this?

A. 8mm punch of the entire lesion
B. 3mm punch biopsy from the center of the lesion
C. Refer to dermatology
D. Small shave of the dark portion
How should we biopsy this?

A. 3mm punch biopsy of the edge of the lesion
B. 3mm punch biopsy from the center of the lesion
C. Refer to dermatology
D. Deep shave biopsy of entire lesion
How should we biopsy this?

A. 3mm punch biopsy of the edge of the lesion
B. 3mm punch biopsy from the center of the lesion
C. Refer to dermatology
D. Deep shave biopsy of entire lesion
How should we biopsy this?

A. 3mm punch biopsy of the edge of the lesion – partial sample- partial diagnosis

B. 3mm punch biopsy from the center of the lesion -partial sample- partial diagnosis

C. Refer to dermatology – would be appropriate if patient is reliable and derm is available within days

D. Deep shave biopsy of entire lesion

E. Excisional biopsy
Non-melanoma skin cancer biopsy
RASHES
NOT EVERY SKIN TAG IS A SKIN TAG
NOT EVERY CYST IS A CYST
SEND EVERY SPECIMEN TO PATHOLOGY
SEND EVERY SPECIMEN TO PATHOLOGY
Special cases: Alopecia
Special cases: Specimen for DIF
The more detail you provide (including photos) the better your report will be.

Clinical descriptors
- Duration, symptoms

Exam findings
- Tumor versus rash
- Color, distribution

Pertinent history
- Previous diagnoses, recent changes in health

“Brown-tan papule, 1x0.8cm, bleeding/crusting, previous hx of MM”
Take Photos! – Skin cancer

HELPFUL

LESS HELPFUL… BUT BETTER THAN NOTHING
Take Photos! – rashes

HELPFUL

LESS HELPFUL... BUT BETTER THAN NOTHING
SKIN BIOPSY BEST PRACTICES

Skin biopsy: Biopsy issues in specific diseases

Dirk M Elston ¹, Erik J Stratman ², Stanley J Miller ³

Affiliations  + expand
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Thank you

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