**Purpose**

Skin biopsies are performed in the investigation of various skin lesions, including suspected neoplasms and some rashes. The two general techniques for skin biopsy are the ‘**shave**’, in which the skin lesion is shaved off horizontally or parallel to the skin surface, and the ‘**punch**’, in which a vertical plug of skin is taken for analysis. **Punch biopsies for alopecia require special handling (see “Punch Biopsy for Alopecia” procedure)**. NOTE: Derm biopsies are often small; to minimize the risk of loss during handling, biopsies should be transferred directly from the specimen container to the grossing bench, and processed only on the grossing bench.