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### Salivary gland biopsy for Sjogren's disease

Salivary gland biopsy is performed to assist a rheumatologist with the diagnosis of Sjogren's syndrome and disease. Salivary gland biopsy is performed in the office.

Ideally, a patient should be off medications that contain aspirin or medications such as coumadin or plavix for two weeks to decrease the potential for bleeding. However, in certain cases, patients have been advised to stay on these medications for their cardiovascular problems.

Patients that typically take antibiotics for dental appointments should also request antibiotics prior to salivary gland biopsy.

The physician will inject 1% lidocaine with epinephrine into the lower lip area. After adequate vasoconstriction and anesthesia, a scalpel is used to make a 1-2 cm incision in the lower lip area (the lip is pulled forward to allow better access).

Salivary glands are then removed and placed in formalin for review by pathology. The bleeding is stopped and at times, a suture is placed. This chromic suture will self-absorb or sometimes, fall out on its own, within several days.

For the next day or so, until the incision heals, the patient should avoid extreme hot or cold food and spicy foods. If there is bleeding, pressure should be placed on the incision site.