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Temporal artery biopsy

Patients are sometimes referred for a temporal artery biopsy. This involves removal of a small portion of the artery to be studied for signs of inflammation.

Temporal artery biopsies are typically performed in the operating room with sedation. A local anesthetic is injected into the skin at the site of the incision. A small incision is made and a portion of the artery is removed, for review by a pathologist. The skin will then be closed with sutures.

You will be able to return home after the procedure. It is better to avoid strenuous activity that could raise your blood pressure. A return visit in the office will be scheduled to remove stitches and to check the incision site.