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| **Name:** |
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| **Basic Science Question:** |
| What is the difference between an incisional and excisional biopsy? |
| **Report:** |
| To start with understanding the differences between an incisional and excisional biopsy, it is critical to first understand what a biopsy is and its connection to dentistry and the oral mucosa.  A biopsy is defined to be a surgical obtainment of tissue from a living organism with the purpose of examination in order to establish a diagnosis based on the sample of the tissue. Biopsy findings can provide tremendous medical value as it offers practitioners an understanding of the characteristics and the extent of different lesions, while providing the practitioner with information on sufficient and appropriate treatment planning for the patient. In the dental field specifically, biopsies are often used in analysis of a lesion within the oral mucosa or lip that may be suggestive of malignancy, or cancerous growth within the tissue. An oral biopsy can also very useful in establishing the diagnosis of systemic illnesses requiring histological confirmation, disorders of infectious origins, and confirmation of blister lesions.  While an oral biopsy can be critical in improve the patient prognosis, it is important to note incorrect usage of biopsy techniques and materials can actually adversely affect the patient and the results. Two of these techniques include incisional and excisional biopsies.   An incisional biopsy can be defined as the surgical removal of a representative portion of a target lesion along with part of the healthy tissue. If the tissue is extensive, multiple samples should be obtained and adequately identified. An incisional biopsy is the preferred technique when the target lesion is often difficult to remove due to either its larger size or complicated location, and likewise multiple samples are often taken. However, incisional biopsies can increase the risk of metastasis by disrupting the barrier of the region, and thus favoring invasion of the bloodstream and immune cells towards the site of the wound. Conversely, an excisional biopsy involves the total removal of the target lesion and a wider margin of the surrounding healthy tissue. Excisional biopsies are therefore often ideal for smaller, discrete lesions, and seem to be the overall preferred technique when applicable as they ensure the complete inclusion of a peripheral margin of normal tissue. |
| **References:** |
| 1. Mota-Ramírez A, Silvestre FJ, Simó JM. Oral biopsy in dental practice. Med Oral Patol Oral Cir Bucal. 2007 Nov 1;12(7):E504-10. PMID: 17978774. From <https://0-pubmed-ncbi-nlm-nih-gov.libus.csd.mu.edu/17978774/> 2. Shinohara S, Takebayashi S, Kikuchi M, Michida T, Hayashi K, Yamamoto R, Saida K, Mizuno K, Fujiwara K, Naito Y. Prognostic impact of incisional or excisional biopsy of cervical lymph node metastases of solid tumors. Jpn J Clin Oncol. 2018 Jun 1;48(6):529-534. doi: 10.1093/jjco/hyy056. PMID: 29688530. From <https://0-pubmed-ncbi-nlm-nih-gov.libus.csd.mu.edu/29688530/> 3. Kumaraswamy KL, Vidhya M, Rao PK, Mukunda A. Oral biopsy: oral pathologist's perspective. J Cancer Res Ther. 2012 Apr-Jun;8(2):192-8. doi: 10.4103/0973-1482.98969. PMID: 22842360. From <https://0-pubmed-ncbi-nlm-nih-gov.libus.csd.mu.edu/22842360/> |