



SURGICAL WOUND CARE

How Do I Take Care of The Area?

EXCISION

1. The wound should be kept dry, with the dressing in place, for the first day. Bathing can then be resumed, but cleanse the area gently.
2. Keep the original dressing on until the next day, at which time you carefully remove any gauze and tape. Be careful not to pull on the sutures themselves.
3. Dressing changes should be done twice daily (a.m. and p.m.). Wash the area with a 50/50 mixture of Hydrogen Peroxide and Water, and then gently pat dry.
4. Apply a thin layer of Polysporin or Mupirocin with each change of your dressing.
5. Cover the area with a gauze pad and tape, or an appropriately sized Band-Aid. Special gauze pads with adhesive border may be purchased at the pharmacy for larger wounds.
6. Limit physical activity that may cause tension or pulling on the wound to allow for proper healing.
7. Continue until you return to have your sutures removed. It is important that you return to have any sutures removed, unless other arrangements have been made.

SHAVE BIOPSY

1. Keep the original dressing in place, and the wound dry, for the first day. Bathing can then be resumed, but cleanse the area gently after removing the gauze and tape.
2. Dressing changes should be done twice daily after cleansing the area with soapy water.
3. After cleansing, apply a thin layer of Polysporin or Mupirocin ointment and cover with a Band-Aid twice daily for 5-7 days.

What things should I watch for?

There may be some **pain**, but Extra-Strength Tylenol will usually relieve it. If you experience severe pain please call.

Bleeding usually ceases by the second day. Limit your physical activity and elevate the surgical site, if possible. For surgery on face, head, or neck avoid stooping or bending. If bleeding occurs, apply firm pressure for 5-10 minutes and it should stop. Call the doctor if you are concerned.

Infection is rare with the above care, but does occur on occasion. Increasing redness, especially if accompanied by pain and swelling or drainage, may mean infection. Please call if you suspect infection.

A **scar** will almost always result from this type of surgery. We always try to make your scar as inconspicuous as possible, but are unable to predict exactly how the scar will look. Healing (and therefore scarring) differs from person to person, and even from site to site on the same person. Scar redness usually takes 6-9 months to fade.

In case of emergency, please call 630-953-1190 to be directed to the provider on call