

## Wound Care Instructions

1. Please keep sutured wounds away from water for 24 TO 48 hours. Leave the applied dressing in place for that time. If, for some reason the dressing is removed, apply Vaseline or Polysporin and replace the dressing.
2. After 48 hours, remove dressing. Wash with soap and water. With a clean Q-tip, apply Vaseline or Polysporin in a thick layer over sutures. Apply fresh bandage. Repeat this twice daily.

If there is bleeding from the wound, it is important that you apply pressure. DO NOT remove the dressing. Use an absorbent cloth and apply direct, continuous pressure over the wound site. Continue pressure for 20 minutes without stopping. If the wound continues to bleed, apply pressure for an additional 20 minutes, and up to an hour if needed. Wait 24 hours before removing the dressing. Elevation of the surgical site and the application of ice for 20 minutes out of each hour can help with decrease swelling and bleeding.

Unstitched wounds will begin healing by forming a red edge and a yellowish center. This is normal and means you are keeping the wound soft, not letting a hard scab to form. This allows the wound to heal in and have a more aesthetic appearing scar.

Infection of the skin is uncommon. However, if you are experiencing increased pain after day 5 of the procedure, the red edge of the wound is increasing in size, the skin around the wound feels hot, or you are feverish, please call the clinic and plan on a quick visit so that the wound can be evaluated.

Sutured wounds will need a suture removal appointment. Please make this appointment for \_\_\_\_\_ days with one of the medical assistants. We can discuss your pathological diagnosis at that time.

It takes 7-10 days for the return of pathological diagnosis. You will be called at that time. Benign diagnosis information will be left on an available voice mail unless you request personal contact only. If you do not hear from us in two weeks, we ask that you contact our office. 425.455.3376.

Carla Bauman, M.D. and staff