



Wound Care Instructions following Mohs or Excisions

It is normal to have some soreness for the first 48 to 72 hours after surgery. For most patients, Acetaminophen (Tylenol) taken at a dose of 1000 mg every 6 hours will keep you comfortable (max dose of 4000 mg/24 hr.) Do not consume alcohol while you are taking Acetaminophen, and do not take Acetaminophen if you have a history of liver disease.

- Cold compresses with a bag of ice or frozen peas can help minimize pain, swelling, and bruising and can be used every 15 minutes out of every hour. The area may remain numb for several weeks or even months. The suture line may remain pink for months following surgery.
- Keeping the surgical site elevated can also minimize pain and swelling. If your surgery was on your head or neck, we recommend sleeping with an extra pillow for a few nights.
- Please avoid any exercise while the sutures are in place. Walking is fine, but any activity that makes your heart race or makes you sweat should be avoided.
- You may notice a small amount of blood on your bandage for the first few days-this is normal.

Wound Care Instructions:

- Unless instructed otherwise, keep the original dressing clean and dry (no showering) and leave it in place for 24 to 48 hours. After 24 to 48 hours, you may start your routine wound care as outlined below and get the area wet in the shower. If steri-strips have been placed, no further wound care needs to be performed until the steri-strips fall off.
- Do not submerge your wound (such as in a pool or tub) for 2 weeks.

At each dressing change (one to two times per day):

1. Wash your hands with soapy water.
 2. Remove bandage and gently wash area with warm soapy water, rinse, then pat dry with a clean towel. Avoid rubbing the surgical site.
 3. Using a clean cotton-tipped applicator (Q-tip), apply a thin film of petroleum jelly (Vaseline) or antibiotic ointment as directed to the surgical site, then apply a non-adherent dressing such as Telfa and secure it with tape or a wrap. If the wound is small, a bandage such as a Band-Aid may be used.
 4. Using these instructions, clean your surgical site one to two times per day until your scheduled appointment to have your sutures removed or if no sutures need to be removed, for one to two weeks.
- Call the office if you notice any of the following symptoms:
 1. Increasing pain, tenderness, or swelling at the surgical site.
 2. Increasing redness or warmth around the surgical site. A thin pink rim is a normal part of wound healing.
 3. Thick, yellow, or green drainage from the surgical site.
 4. A body temperature of 100.4 degrees F without signs of coughing, sore throat, vomiting or diarrhea.
 5. If your surgical site is bleeding, hold firm pressure for 30 continuous minutes (no peeking).

If you have questions or concerns, please call the office at (727)888-0900.

After hours emergency, please call (727)344-9905.

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