

Information for the Dermatology Patient Post Procedure Skin Care

You had skin surgery. This sheet will help you know how to take care of the site when you get home.

- Try to keep the site's dressing dry and in place for 24 hours.
- Wash your hands with soap and water, prior to cleaning the wound site.
- After that 24 hours, cleanse the site with warm soapy water once (or twice) a day. Pat dry the area after washing. Then apply either Vaseline petroleum jelly or Aquaphor, cover with a non-stick (Telfa) gauze pad and paper tape, or a band-aid.
- Do not use pre-medicated band-aids with the antibiotic ointments such as bacitracin or Neosporin.
- If you prefer not to cover the area, please apply Vaseline petroleum jelly several times a day.
- Do not use any other cream or ointments on the site, unless specified by the doctor.
- Keep changing dressing daily until the site is completely healed.
- If you have any bleeding or oozing of the site, gently apply continuous pressure; using a clean gauze, towel, or washcloth; for 15 minutes. The bleeding/oozing should stop with this pressure. If it does not stop, try putting pressure on the site again with ice for 15 minutes. If you cannot get the bleeding/oozing to stop with this pressure, please contact the dermatology clinic at 952-920-3808 and ask to speak with the nurse triage line. If this issue happens after hours, call the same telephone number and you will be connected to the on-call doctor.
- If you have severe swelling, significant redness, pain, draining pus at the wound site, or if you have a fever, please call the phone number, 952-920-3808, for advice. These are normally signs of infection.
- Avoid consuming alcohol and taking ibuprofen, for 48 hours after surgery. It can increase your risk of bleeding.
- Take one to two, 325mg acetaminophen (Tylenol) pills, as needed for pain every four to six hours. Do not take Tylenol if you have liver failure, or severe liver disease.
- If you have not been contacted about your biopsy results within 2 weeks, please call the clinic, 952-920-3808.

After Surgery

You will be given a care plan and the time of your next needed appointment the day of your surgery. If your surgery is for skin cancer, our next appointment after suture removal should be in 3-6 months unless otherwise specified. Any suture that you can see will need to be removed.

When the skin surgery is finished, the wound will either be closed with sutures (stitches) or left open to heal on its own. The doctor will decide what is best for you. No loofahs or sponges in the shower until after your sutures are removed.

If you have any questions, call 952-920-3808 and ask to speak to a nurse Monday-Friday 7:30am-4:00pm. After hour calls will be forwarded to the on call doctor.

D E R M A T O L O G Y
S P E C I A L I S T S
P. A.

TELE 952. 920. 3808

FAX 952. 920. 8899