



Mohs Wound Care Instructions

Wound Care Post-Mohs Surgery – with or without sutures

- 1) Pressure dressing to be left on for 24 hours post surgery.
 - 2) Remove pressure dressing after 24 hours and begin cleaning the wound twice daily with soap and water. Apply Aquaphor healing ointment or Vaseline to soften any crusting/scabs and **gently** remove any softened scab/skin debris with a wet Q-tip or gauze. Over the counter hydrogen peroxide to be used only IF infection is suspected. **Keep in mind that hydrogen peroxide can harm healing tissue.**
 - 3) Submerging the wound in water (ex. Swimming, hot tubs, etc.) is not recommended due to the risk of infection while sutures are intact. Showers are acceptable 48 hours after the procedure.
 - 4) Thoroughly dry wound after cleaning and apply Aquaphor health ointment or Vaseline. These can be purchased over the counter without a prescription. Antibiotic ointment may be applied to the site if any signs of infection (increased pain, swelling, redness, discolored drainage, or warmth) around the affected wound are noted. Neosporin and Bacitracin are not recommended due to possible allergies.
 - 5) Apply a band-aid or non-stick dressing.
 - 6) If bleeding occurs, apply firm pressure to the wound site for 5-10 minutes or until bleeding subsides then apply Aquaphor healing ointment or Vaseline and a dressing.
 - 7) **Open wounds** usually take 4 weeks for completed healing. It can take up to 8 weeks for the scalp to heal. Studies show that wounds heal better when they are kept lubricated, such as when they are covered with an ointment and band-aid. After the area is healed on the surface, it will remain discolored or reddened for several months.
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Wound Care for Skin Grafts

- 1) Leave dressing on, and dry, until your follow-up visit.
- 2) DO NOT rub, scratch, or cause any type of trauma that might move or loosen the dressing or skin graft.
- 3) Avoid strenuous activities, heavy lifting, or other activities that may cause physical stress to the graft or increase your blood pressure.
- 4) If bleeding occurs, apply gentle pressure and additional gauze over dressing. DO NOT remove dressing that was applied by your nurse. Call the office for a follow-up.

All Wounds

- 1) Monitor your wound for any signs of infection (increased pain, swelling, redness, discolored drainage, or warmth) around the affected area.
- 2) If any complications develop in the care of your wound, call Summit Dermatology at (719) 667-0888 Monday thru Thursday between the hours of 7:00am-4:00pm or Friday between the hours 7:00am-11:30am. **For emergencies** after hours, call Summit Dermatology at (719) 667-0888 option 6 to reach on call doctor.