

POST-OPERATIVE WOUND CARE FOR SURGICAL PROCEDURES (MOHS, EXCISIONS, EARLOBE REPAIRS)

1. Leave bandages on for the first ____ hours.
2. A shower may be taken after ____ hours. Leave your bandage on while showering-- getting it wet will allow for more easy removal.
3. Carefully remove the white pressure bandage so as not to irritate the wound.
4. **If** steri-strips have been applied to wound under pressure dressing leave them in place, no wound care is needed; they will be removed at suture removal.

❖ **If all of the steri-strips fall off PRIOR to suture removal, follow steps 5-7.**

5. **If** no steri-strips are over the wound, then wipe off any old ointment lightly with a clean Q-tip.
6. Gently cleanse the area with soap and water.
7. Re-apply a thin layer of Vaseline ointment to the wound using a clean Q-tip every day until sutures are removed.

❖ **If, while using a prescribed antibiotic ointment, a rash, redness or itching occurs, switch to Vaseline use only.**

8. The wound should be cleaned, ointment applied and re-banded once daily, until sutures are removed unless otherwise instructed.

NO SWIMMING OR HOT TUBBING UNTIL SUTURES HAVE BEEN REMOVED

If shaving around the area, leave your bandage on and shave around it. Shaving over the sutures could allow the wound to open up or increase your infection risk.

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Bruising and swelling may occur after the surgery and can increase for up to 48 hours. Do not be alarmed--this will resolve over time. You may sleep with your head elevated to avoid swelling of the surgical site on face or head. Applying ice compresses over the bandage will help to decrease swelling and bruising:

❖ **ICE:** Wrap a handkerchief or washcloth around your ice pack. Apply over bandage for 10 minutes 4-6 times per day.

2. If slight bleeding occurs, apply continuous pressure for 20 minutes. If bleeding persists, please call our office during business hours to be seen. Our after hours emergency line is available from 5PM-9PM Monday through Friday and 9AM-5PM on weekends. Please call our office for the after hours number if needed. If you need assistance outside of these hours please go to the nearest urgent care or emergency room.

3. If the wound becomes hot or extremely tender to touch or bright red around the wound, extending 1 inch beyond the wound edge: **Please contact us at 561-364-7774**

4. Some mild oozing of both clear yellow fluid and blood from the wound is normal. If the oozing continues beyond the first few days, or gets worse, please contact the office.

5. If healing without sutures: Signs of healing may not be apparent for 2-3 weeks and the wound may take 6-8 weeks or longer to completely heal. Keep the wound covered with ointment and a bandage until your follow-up visit.