

Wound Care Instructions

□ Surgery

1. Leave the dressing in place for 24 hours and do not get it wet.
2. Remove the dressing and gently wash the wound with mild soap and water. Dry the area with a clean towel. If there are crusts (scabs) on the wound then use cotton balls soaked with hydrogen peroxide to gently remove the crusts.
3. After cleaning the wound, apply antibiotic ointment (Polysporin or Bacitracin). Then cover the wound with a bandage. Cleaning the wound and applying a bandage is done once a day.
4. After 3-4 days, the wound can be left uncovered if there is no oozing of fluid or blood. It is still necessary to keep the wound moist with antibiotic ointment.

□ Biopsy/ Destruction of a Cancer

1. Leave the dressing in place for 24 hours and do not get it wet.
2. Remove the dressing and gently wash the wound with mild soap and water. Dry the area with a clean towel. Apply antibiotic ointment (Polysporin or Bacitracin).
3. Cover the wound with a bandage. Cleaning the wound and applying a bandage is done once a day until the wound is healed. This may take 1-3 weeks.

□ Drainage of a Cyst or Abscess

1. Leave the dressing in place for 24 hours and do not get it wet.
2. Remove the dressing and gently wash the wound with mild soap and water. Dry the area with a clean towel. Apply antibiotic ointment (Polysporin or Bacitracin).
3. Cover the wound with a bandage. Cleaning the wound and applying a bandage is done once a day until the wound is healed. This may take 1-3 weeks.
4. If there is a wick, it should be removed after 3-4 days.

*If there is discomfort take extra strength Tylenol. Do not take more than the recommended dosage on the bottle. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications such as ibuprofen and naproxen are not recommended since they promote bleeding.

* Notify us if:

- A. Pain is not relieved with Tylenol.
- B. Wound is bleeding and cannot be stopped with 5-10 minutes of applying direct pressure.
- C. Wound is infected. Signs of infection include pain, redness, swelling, and oozing of pus. A little amount of redness around the wound is normal.
- D. There are any questions or concerns about the wound or wound care instructions.