

OAKBROOK TERRACE DERMATOLOGY ASSOCIATES

BIOPSY CARE 2012

In some cases the wound will be a thin line, held together by a series of nylon sutures. Many smaller surgical wounds are often left open (not sutured), to heal gradually from the outside in. The surgical anesthetic usually wears off in 45 - 60 minutes.

How Do I Take Care of The Area?

1. The wound should be kept free of bath/shower water for the first day. Bathing can then be resumed, but cleanse gently. No swimming until healing is complete.
2. Keep the original dressing on until the next day, at which time you carefully remove any gauze and tape. Wipe the area gently with hydrogen peroxide (available without prescription) to remove any blood, and pat dry with a clean gauze or cloth.
3. Apply a thin layer of either petrolatum, Vaseline or Aquaphor with each change of your dressing, or twice daily.
4. Cover the area daily with a gauze pad and tape, or you may use a band-aid (available in different sizes). In the case of larger wounds, special gauze pads with an adhesive border may be purchases at your pharmacy.
5. Dressing changes are usually done twice daily (a.m. and p.m.).

What things should I watch for?

There may be some **pain**, but Extra-Strength Tylenol will usually relieve it. If you experience severe pain please contact your doctor.

Bleeding usually ceases by the second day. Limit your physical activity and elevate the surgical site, if possible. For surgery on face, head, or neck avoid stooping or bending, straining to have a bowel movement, and sleep with your head elevated on extra pillows if you are bleeding. Call the doctor if you are concerned.

Infection is rare with the above care, but does occur on occasion. Increasing redness, especially if accompanied by pain and swelling or drainage, may mean infection. Please call if you suspect infection.

A **scar** will almost always result from this type of surgery. We always try to make your scar as inconspicuous as possible, but are unable to predict exactly how the scar will look. Healing (and therefore scarring) differs from person to person, and even from site to site on the same person. Scar redness usually takes 6-9 months to fade.

Finally it is important that you return to have any sutures removed, unless other arrangements have been made. There is no charge for suture removal, unless additional services are performed at that same time.

Dr. Keuer Emergency: 630-988-5887

Dr. Allen Emergency: 630-720-3255