



Wound Care Instructions: **SECOND INTENT HEALING**

Your wound has not been stitched. It is healing by second intention. That means it will be healing by itself. Over the next several days, it is normal to see some bloody discharge of the bandage. If there should be heavy bleeding (that which soaks through your bandaging), lie down, try and elevate the area, and if possible, apply firm pressure with clean gauze for 20 minutes (without peeking). If bleeding persists after two rounds of pressure, please call the office at 321-406-8615.

If you believe that your problem cannot wait, please go to the nearest Emergency Department.

Today: You have been bandaged with Vaseline, non-stick telfa, gauze, and tape. Try and leave this bandage on for 24 hours. You may apply ice (over the bandage) for 10 minutes every hour, if needed, to reduce the pain, bruising, and swelling that you may experience. If you have pain, you can take Tylenol, regular or extra strength, as directed on the bottle. Avoid aspirin or ibuprofen if possible during the immediate post-operative period (1-3 days). Avoid any strenuous activity for the first couple of days.

Dressing Changes: The dressing should be changed daily, starting 24 hours after your procedure. If you have difficulty removing the dressing, you may shower with it. It will loosen from the skin and be easier to remove. You may let soapy water run over the wound, followed by clean water. Do not rub the wound or let the stream of water directly hit the wound. You may then pat your wound dry.

After patting your wound dry, please apply a thin layer of Vaseline or Aquaphor to the wound, a nonstick pad/telfa (cut to size, only slightly larger than the wound), then affix with tape. For small wounds, a bandaid will suffice.

For the best cosmetic results: Do not let the wound dry out or scab over. Keep the area moist with ointment. Please DO NOT use bacitracin, or other topical antibiotics unless directed.

With second intention healing, activity does not need to be limited. The wound will take several weeks to fully heal (longer on legs and scalp), then several more months for the skin coloration to normalize. A small rim of redness and swelling and yellowish debris in the center is normal. If you are unsure, please call and I will be happy to see you in clinic.

Please Note: Infections are still rare, but, can develop. Signs of infection are: fever greater than 101, increased tenderness or pain, red streaking, swelling, pus, and a foul smell. If any of these symptoms occur, please call the office at 321-406-8615.

After surgery, you will be monitored by your primary dermatologist at regular intervals and will be checked for signs of recurrence. You should always have an appointment scheduled, as your risk of developing a future skin cancer is increased.