

CARE OF YOUR SURGICAL WOUND

CAUTION: If you do not feel well after surgery, tell the doctor. Do not leave the office and do not drive.

If you have stitches, your dressing should be removed in 24 hours. Cleanse the wound gently with soap and water. Keep the wound and stitches free of crust and do not allow a scab to form. Apply Polysporin ointment after cleansing and leave the wound open to the air if possible. Repeat twice daily until your follow up appointment.

DO NOT SHAVE NEAR SUTURED AREA!

If you have a possible problem or question, call our office promptly.

Swelling is common and can be lessened by the use of an ice bag. The area may ooze a little blood especially in the first few hours after surgery; activity will aggravate this. If bleeding occurs, apply simple direct firm pressure for fifteen minutes. This will usually stop the bleeding; if it does not, call the office.

If you have discomfort after surgery, take non-aspirin pain relievers. Do not wait until pain builds up; take something at the first hint of discomfort and you may not need anything more. If pain is increasing after one to two days after surgery, or the wound looks infected, call the office. The surgery area may need to be checked.

You may experience a sensation of tightness across the area of surgery. Skin cancers frequently involve nerves and months may pass before your skin sensation returns to normal. In some cases, numbness may be permanent. You may also experience itching after your wound has healed. Complete healing of the surgical scar takes 12 to 18 months.