

Open Wound Care Instructions

Please wash your hands thoroughly before caring for the wound. Please follow these instructions:

1. Leave the bulky, white pressure-dressing over the area and **keep it dry for the first 48 hours.**
2. After removing the dressing, the wound should be washed every day with hydrogen peroxide. Please be gentle with the fresh wound. Do not attempt to remove any debris that will not come off easily. Small spots of bleeding are common when cleaning your wound.
3. Coat with Vaseline using a clean Q-tip and then cover with a Band-Aid or other form of non-adherent dressing.
4. **Do not allow the wound to be left open to dry or become dry enough to form a scab.** For your wound to heal properly with the best cosmetic outcome, it is important to keep the wound moist with Vaseline and covered at all times throughout the healing process. If the wound appears to be drying out, more Vaseline should be applied at each dressing change.
5. Continue these instructions until brand-new pink skin forms over the wound. This may take 4-12 weeks depending on the size of the wound, the location, and how well you heal.
6. If you develop increasing redness, pain at the site, or pus/malodorous discharge these may be signs of infection. Please call the office as soon as possible or seek medical care.
7. If you notice bleeding through the bandage, hold pressure with gauze/cotton/cloth for 20 minutes continuously without releasing. If bleeding continues after that then repeat holding pressure. If bleeding continues, call our office or go to the nearest emergency room.

NOTE: Do not take any blood thinners (other than those prescribed by your doctor) including aspirin (or aspirin-containing medications). If you need pain relief, take Extra Strength Tylenol. Postoperative pain should improve considerably after 2 to 3 days.

If you have any concerns please call the office at 704-230-1302. *We will return your calls as soon as possible. If you are experiencing a life-threatening event, please call 911 or seek help at the nearest emergency department.*