

Skin Graft Care Instructions

Leave the two bulky, white pressure-dressings over both the graft site and donor site for 48 hours. Do not get them wet. After 48 hours, you may carefully remove these pressure-dressings. **Please wash hands well before caring for your wounds.**

Graft site: Under the bulky pressure-dressing, you will see the non-stick dressing and the fragile graft. After you remove the dressing, wash the graft gently with Hydrogen Peroxide and reapply Vaseline and cover the graft with a Band-Aid or with non-stick dressing. Never allow the graft to dry out. Avoid submerging the graft in water (showering, washing, pool).

Over the course of the next few days to 1 week, the graft may change colors (deep purple) and puff up, this is normal. However, if it starts to emit an odor, discharge pus, or become crusted, hard, and black then please call the office.

Donor site: After removing the pressure-dressing, you will treat the DONOR site according to the type of repair you have received. **Typically, the donor site is left to heal on its own.** Please follow the instructions below:

▣ **Wound healing on its own:** After 48 hours, wash the area daily with hydrogen peroxide (using a clean cotton ball). Apply Vaseline, and re-dress with a new bandage daily until the wound completely heals. You will have brand-new pink skin covering the wound. Never allow the wound to dry out or form a scab during this time.

▣ **Dissolvable suture:** You Will Receive Separate Instructions for this type of repair.

▣ **Non-dissolvable Suture:** You Will Receive Separate Instructions for this type of repair.

NOTE: Unless prescribed by your doctor, do not take any blood thinners 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 our 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.