

Donor Site Care

For All Donor Sites

Watch for signs and symptoms of infection:

- Increased redness (over 1 inch in width) and swelling around the skin graft.
- Foul smelling or blue-green colored drainage from the skin graft.
- Flu-like symptoms (fever, chills, nausea or vomiting, muscle aches).
- Increased pain.

Care of a Donor Site with a Mepilex® Ag Dressing

Mepilex® is an absorbent foam dressing with a silicone layer with silver that adheres to intact skin and does not stick to open wounds.

Leave the donor site dressing in place until you return to clinic. Keep it clean and dry.

Call us and return to clinic to have your dressing checked if any of these problems occur. Your dressing might need to be changed:

- Outer dressing becomes soaked with too much drainage from the donor site.
- Outer dressing gets wet.
- Dressing comes off, exposing the open donor site.
- Watch for signs and symptoms of infection (see above).

Care of a Donor Site After the Mepilex® Ag Dressing Is Removed

- Wash the area with mild soap and water starting on _____.
- Treat open areas with bacitracin and Cuticerin.
- Apply lotion _____ to keep a newly healed donor site from drying out and cracking.
- Watch for signs and symptoms of infection. Call us if you notice any of these problems.

Care of Primary Closure Donor Site

- Keep the site covered with the first dressing until _____.
- Once the dressing is removed, leave the incision site open to the air.
- If Steri-strips are used (thin white tapes across your incision), do not remove them until they loosen and fall off on their own. This takes about one week.
- You may shower starting on _____. **No tub baths or soaking in water.**
- Watch for signs and symptoms of infection. Call us if you have any problems.

Care of a Healed Donor Site

- Wash the area with mild soap and water.
- Apply lotion _____.
- Apply compression _____.

Phone Numbers

For question Monday through Friday 8 am - 5 pm please call the General Surgery and Burn Clinic at **608-264-8040**.

If you have urgent questions or needs after hours or on weekends, call the Burn Unit Nurses at **608-263-1490** or call **608-262-2122** and ask to have the Burn resident paged.

If you have non urgent questions or needs after hours or on weekends, please leave a message for the General Surgery triage nurse at **608-890-9542**.

If you live out of the area, you can call toll free at **1-800-323-8942**.

If you are a patient receiving care at UnityPoint – Meriter, Swedish American or a health system outside of UW Health, please use the phone numbers provided in your discharge instructions for any questions or concerns.

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 8/2019 University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing. HF#5825