

## **Sutured Wound Instructions (With Dissolvable Sutures)**

These instructions will describe how to care for your surgical site. Follow these instructions **daily** and carefully for optimal cosmetic results. Keeping the area moist and covered with a bandage without time open to the air or to "breathe" is very important for the **first** week.

### **MATERIALS NEEDED**

Mild (liquid) anti-bacterial soap (Softsoap, Dial, etc)  
Cotton tip applicators or Q-tips  
Scissors  
Tape (Hypafix is the brand we use and recommend)

Ointment - Vaseline, A&D, or Polysporin (Do not use Neosporin)  
Non-stick dressing pads (to cover wound)  
Gauze pads

### **PROCEDURE:**

1. Keep the area dry on the day of surgery. You may shower on the following day unless otherwise informed by your nurse. Leave the bandage intact to protect the wound from the direct water pressure.
2. Immediately following your shower, remove the wet bandage. Remove all old drainage/ointment with use of gauze or tissue. Using Q-tips or gauze and a mild soapy water solution, cleanse between the sutures and around the wound well. **DO NOT USE PEROXIDE.**
3. Rinse and gently dry the wound with a clean Q-tip/gauze pad.
4. Spread a layer of ointment along the suture line with a clean Q-tip.
5. Cut non-stick dressing pad to completely cover the wound and secure with tape. Bandage should be airtight at all times. Apply additional tape as needed. This should be done daily for the **first** week. For the **second** week, the same cleaning as described above should be done daily for one week with application of ointment to the sutures, but **NO BANDAGE** is needed. **After** the second week, no further wound care is needed.

### **IMPORTANT NOTES:**

1. Avoiding/decreasing tobacco use following surgery will drastically improve healing.
2. Avoid aspirin and other blood thinners for one week after surgery, **unless** these are prescribed by a physician. Alcohol also thins the blood. Avoid any additional aspirin containing products. CAUTION: Bufferin, Anacin, Goody Powders, Excedrin and B.C. Powders all contain aspirin products.
3. If your wound edges begin to pull apart or open, or if you experience excessive bleeding, drainage, pain, swelling, redness, or fever, then call our office immediately or Dr. Viehman after hours.
4. Avoid strenuous activity for at least two weeks following surgery.

### **WHAT TO EXPECT FOLLOWING SURGERY:**

1. After your surgery you can expect some discomfort from the surgical site. This is highly variable among patients and is also dependent upon the location of your surgery. Some areas are more sensitive than others. We recommend taking a dose of *both* Tylenol 1000mg and ibuprofen 400mg (at the same time) shortly after surgery. Repeat ibuprofen 3 times/day for 3 days to prevent inflammation. Do not exceed 3000mg of Tylenol in a 24 hour period. If your pain is not adequately relieved, or if you are having severe pain then you should call our office immediately or Dr. Viehman after hours.
2. After surgery you should expect some mild swelling and redness around the surgical site. Ibuprofen and ice packs will greatly help to reduce swelling. In many cases the swelling is a side effect of the numbing medication used during surgery. Some areas of the body tend to swell more than others, such as around the eyes and on the forehead. Swelling may worsen over the 72 hours following surgery, particularly following lying flat at night. If you feel your swelling or redness is abnormal please call our office.
3. A low grade fever (99-101) for which any NON-ASPIRIN product may be used. Tylenol is recommended.
4. Mild drainage from the wound which may have a foul odor and be yellowish in color. This is especially common on the legs. The yellow drainage is NOT a sign of infection.
5. Significant bleeding is unlikely but can occur. If you experience bleeding then lie down and apply firm, constant pressure to the surgical site for a minimum of twenty minutes. Do not "peek" during this period. If bleeding continues, repeat the pressure on the surgical wound for an additional twenty minutes. If the bleeding persists then please contact our office as early as possible during the day so that we may make arrangements for your evaluation. Dr. Viehman or his PA may also be reached after hours on their cell numbers. If you are unable to reach our office or Dr. Viehman, then please proceed to the nearest emergency room for evaluation and assistance. Call 911 for severe problems.
6. **Ice packs should be used post surgically** and may be placed over the wound dressing to help with pain, swelling, and bleeding. The ice pack is placed over the wound for fifteen minutes and may be repeated 4 to 6 times per day for 3 days. You may also use a bag of frozen peas in substitution.
7. Please contact this office or your local doctor if you have excessive bleeding, swelling, redness, fever or pain.

**Further questions can be addressed through our office at 910-256-2100. Our normal business hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 7:30am – 5:00pm and 7:30am – 1:00pm on Wednesday and Friday.**