

Skin Surgery Clinic

Nurses

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See also General Instructions after skin surgery

Post-Surgical Wound Care

Supplies

- Antibiotic OINTMENT. **Do not use cream.**
Example Ointments: polytopic, polysporin, bactroban, fucidin
- Sterile salt water (normal saline):
To make: 1/2 a teaspoon of salt mixed into a cup of boiled, warm (not hot) water
- Q-tips
- Optional: telfa and paper tape or standard bandage (recommended for areas other than the face)

Instructions

1. Wash your hands with soap and water before every wound dressing change
2. Carefully and slowly remove the dressing.
3. Clean the wound once or twice daily using Q-tip moistened with salt water. The water should soften, loosen and remove all dried blood and other debris from the wound or stitch-line.
4. When all debris and blood is removed, gently dry the area and apply the antibiotic OINTMENT to the wound with the Q-tips. This should be done once or twice daily until several days after the stitches are removed.

Bandaging

- The wound will heal satisfactorily if it is left covered only with ointment.
- If you wish to cover the wound for cosmetic reasons you may do so by applying a small Telfa pad or bandage over the ointment area. Telfa pads may be fastened down with paper tape or a standard bandage (band-aid).
- Wounds on the body (not on the face) often benefit from a wound dressing until the stitches are removed, to avoid rubbing against clothing.

Using Makeup etc.

- Do not apply make-up or sunscreen to the area until 1 week after the stitches are removed



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