

# Skin Surgery Clinic

1 graft

## Nurses

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See also: General Instructions after skin surgery , Supplies in Post-Surgical Wound Care

## Taking Care of Your Skin Graft

**Note:** *Graft recipient site is where we put the borrowed skin  
Graft donor is where we took/borrowed the skin from*

Instructions for **your skin graft donor site:** *right / left collarbone / sideburn / behind ear /*



1. leave the bandage we put on for 24-48 hours
2. after 24-48 hours, remove our bandage and clean the wound (see **post-surgical wound care sheet**)
3. stitches will be removed in \_\_\_\_\_ days by: your family doctor, dermatologist or our office



Instructions for **your skin graft recipient site:**



1. The graft is held in place with a stitched-in cotton ball covered in antibiotic ointment
  - a. **do not remove this! Your doctor will remove this in one week**
  - b. Clean around the area with antibiotic ointment, just like the donor site
  - c. You can cover the cotton ball with a light dressing if you like, for cosmetic reasons
2. after the cotton ball and stitches are removed (by your doctor)
  - a. you may get the graft wet, but no direct shower stream on the site
  - b. continue to apply ointment to the area for 2 weeks
  - c. you may cover with a light dressing if you like, for cosmetic reasons
  - d. protect the graft from sunlight as much as possible, sunscreen and make-up may be used in 2 weeks after the stitches are removed. Until then, a light dressing may protect from the sun.

**Follow-up** after stitches are removed should be scheduled for approximately **6 weeks after surgery**



The **New** Women's College Hospital

Skin Surgery Centre

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