



MOHS Post-Operative Wound Care Instructions

1. Keep bandage clean, dry and in place for 24 hours and then remove. You may gently take a shower after this time.
2. An ice pack may be applied to the wound the evening of the surgery which decreases the chance of swelling and bleeding. Put the ice pack on for 10 minutes out of every hour as needed.
3. Cleanse the wound and apply another dressing using the following steps:
 - Cleanse the wound/stitches with soap and water using hands only. No washcloth.
 - Then apply a thick coat of antibiotic (Bactroban, Bacitracin, Polysporin) ointment to the wound with a cotton swab.
 - Cover the area with a Telfa or non-adherent dressing (bandage).
 - Cover the Telfa or non-adherent dressing with 4 x 4 gauze.
 - Secure the dressing with tape.
4. Repeat dressing changes twice a day.
5. Do not let the wound dry out. Keep the wound moist with antibiotic ointment.
6. Do not soak the wound during the first 2 weeks (no soaking in a bath or swimming pool).
7. If bleeding is noticed, hold firm pressure on the site for 15 minutes. This may need to be repeated several times.
8. Some swelling, redness and drainage of reddish/clear fluid is normal during the first 48-72 hours. However, significant increases in swelling or drainage after 72

hours should be evaluated. These later changes could reflect a hematoma (collection of blood) or infection and should be treated. Please call our office if anything unusual occurs, or visit emergency room after hours and on weekends.

9. Most patients do not experience much discomfort, however, if you do, take Tylenol. Do not take aspirin as aspirin increases the chance for bleeding.
10. Do not shave close to the wound.
11. Avoid pulling/stretching the wound (tension). The cosmetic result will be better if the area can heal with less tension.
12. Occasionally a stitch will become unraveled and fall out. This is not cause for concern.
13. Itching around the wound may occur with healing. This is normal.
14. The skin around the wound may remain numb for months because very small nerves are injured during all surgeries.
15. After bandage removal, please observe for signs of infection: redness, swelling, increasing tenderness, drainage, pus, or red streaks. Please call us at 632-5565, or go to the emergency room if these signs or other problems develop.