



Home Care For Minor Surgery Patients

1. Leave dressings on for 24 hours after surgery.
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 20 minutes out of every hour as needed.
3. If the wound should bleed, apply pressure by holding firm pressure over the lesion for 10-15 minutes. This may need to be repeated.
4. Most patients do not experience much discomfort, however, if you do, take Tylenol. Do not take aspirin as aspirin increases the chance for bleeding.
5. After bandage removal, you may shower gently with soap and water as usual.
6. Keep the wound moist by applying antibiotic ointment such as Polysporin and a fresh bandage twice daily. The lesion will heal more quickly if it is moist.
7. Occasionally a stitch will become unraveled and fall out. This is no cause for concern.
8. Itching around the wound may occur with healing. This is normal.
9. The skin around the wound may remain numb for months because very small nerves are injured during all surgeries.
10. If you had removal of a lesion or had a biopsy you will be notified of the results at your next clinic visit.
11. Some people like to clean the wound by using cotton swabs or gauze pads moistened with hydrogen peroxide and then pat dry which is fine, but not necessary.
12. 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.