

Dermatology
1712 Eye Street NW, Suite 712
Washington, D.C. 20006
202-659-2223/2224

FOR SUTURED WOUNDS

The bandage applied in the doctor's office should remain in place for 24 hours. Do not get the bandage wet. Bathing is permitted as long as it stays dry.

Remove the bandage after 24 hours and rinse gently with mild soap and water. If the bandage is sticking, soak in tap water before gently removing.

Once daily, gently clean with mild soap and water. After cleaning, apply only POLYSPORIN ointment and cover with a clean bandage. Washing the area once or twice a day and keeping ointment on the wound will help keep a scab from forming. It is much easier to remove the stitches if there is no scab. Continue until you return for suture removal. Do not leave the area dry to the air, as a scab will form and the sutures will be difficult to remove. Do not use alcohol or Neosporin. If you cannot use topical antibiotics because you have a reaction to them you may use plain Vaseline or Aquaphor to keep the area moist. If you have antibiotic ointment at home please check that it is not expired before using it.

Slight redness around the wound site and slight tenderness are normal and expected. Signs of infection are spreading redness away from the wound, warmth, tenderness to touch, temperature above 100 degrees. If any of this occurs please call.

Slight oozing of blood onto the bandage several hours after surgery is normal. If this occurs, apply pressure for up to 20 minutes, if oozing does not stop, please call the office.

FOR NON-SUTURED WOUNDS

The bandage applied in the doctor's office should remain in place for 12 hours.

Remove the bandage after 12 hours and rinse gently with mild soap and water. If the bandage is sticking, soak in tap water before gently removing.

Once daily, gently clean with soap and water. After cleaning apply only **POLYSPORIN** ointment and cover with a clean bandage. Continue applying the ointment until the wound is fully healed. You do not have to cover with bandage after 12 hours, but it is preferable because it will protect your clothing from the ointment and improve wound healing time. Do not leave the area dry to the air (cover with ointment) as a scab will form. Do not use alcohol or Neosporin. If you cannot use topical antibiotics because you have a reaction to them you may use plain Vaseline or Aquaphor to keep the area moist. If you have antibiotic ointment at home please check that it is not expired before using it.

Slight redness around the wound site and slight tenderness are normal and expected. Signs of infection are spreading redness away from the wound, warmth, tenderness to touch, temperature above 100 degrees. If any of this occurs please call.

Slight oozing of blood onto the bandage several hours after surgery is normal. If this occurs, apply pressure for up to 20 minutes, if oozing does not stop, please call the office at 202-659-2223 and ask to speak with one of the medical assistants.