



# Wound Care Instructions

1. Remove the bandage in 24-48 hours and wash the area gently with gentle soap and water. Use Hibiclens Antiseptic Skin Cleanser only if instructed by your physician.
2. Apply a generous amount of Aquaphor or Vaseline and cover with a band-aid or gauze dressing. Change the bandage every day until the wound heals smooth to the surface (usually 7-14 days). Use a topical antibiotic ointment only if instructed by your physician.
3. DO NOT allow a thick crust to form. This will increase scarring. If the wound develops a crust, use a warm compress for 10 minutes, 2-3 times daily to remove crusting and then reapply Aquaphor or Vaseline.
4. After the wound heals in about 2-4 weeks, depending on the site, you may use a silicone-based scar product like Strataderm (\$24.50 in-office) for 2-3 months. If the wound develops a *thickened* scar after 4-8 weeks, call the office to schedule a follow-up appointment to have the scar examined and to discuss possible treatments.
5. The wound may stay pink for several months. Protect it from the sun with SPF-50+ sunscreen.
6. Stitches should be removed in: 5 Days 7 Days 10 Days 14 Days

Your appointment is for \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

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**Watch for Infection:** Tenderness, swelling, redness, pus, and odor can be signs of infection. Please monitor this closely. If there is no improvement in 12-24 hours, call the office at 410-203-0607 during business hours (8:00-4:30pm Mon-Fri). We may need you to come in for a wound check to determine if you need treatment. If you call after hours, the on-call provider may direct you to an urgent care facility for evaluation. If you are uncertain about how your wound is healing before the weekend, please contact us during business hours and no later than noon on Friday!

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**Pathology:** Your specimen will be sent for review by a dermatopathologist. This is very important to your care and future treatment. You will be billed separately for these services. Results will be relayed to you in 1-2 weeks. Please call if you do not receive your results in 2 weeks.