

Post-operative instructions

Most patients report little to no discomfort following surgery. You may take Tylenol after surgery if you are experiencing any discomfort. You may take 2 tablets every 4-6 hours as needed for up to two weeks after your surgery.

You may use ice compressions to help minimize any swelling, only apply for 15 minutes at a time.

Some bruising and swelling are typical after surgery. If your surgery site is located on your hand, arm or leg please keep the area elevated as much as possible for 24 hours. If your surgery site is on your head, face or neck you will want to elevate as much as possible with two pillows.

If you are experiencing mild bleeding you need to apply direct pressure over the dressing with clean gauze for 10-15 minutes.

If you are experiencing moderate to severe bleeding you will need to remove the dressing, apply firm pressure directly to the wound with a clean gauze for 15-20 minutes. If bleeding continues please contact the office immediately.

You may take a shower 24-48 hours after your surgery as directed by your physician. You will continue to wash with gentle cleanser, dry and clean as directed below. Please do not swim, take a bath or use a hot tub until your wound is completely healed.

Cleaning:

1. Remove the dressing. If the dressing is stuck to the actual wound, loosen it by soaking with a generous amount of tap water.
2. Cleanse the wound with tap water using cotton-tipped swabs. If crusting is present soak wound with tap water and gently remove any crusting. Dry the wound with clean gauze.
3. Apply Vaseline/Aquaphor to entire wound area using cotton-tipped applicators.
4. Cut a piece of Non-Stick Bandage (Telfa Pad) in the size and shape of the wound. Gently place into the wound.
- 5.. Secure the bandage with paper tape being sure to seal all of the edges with tape. The wound should be completely covered so it is not exposed to air.

**Do not touch the wound with your fingers at any time.

**It is important to know that complete healing of the surgical scar takes place over 12-18 months.

Post-surgical check-ups are recommended in order to monitor the patient's progress and spot any possible cancer recurrence in a timely manner.

Since two of five patients with one skin cancer will develop another within five years, follow up is extremely important for early detection of any new lesions.