

**IF YOU HAVE A TAPE BANDAGE WHICH STAYS UNTIL YOUR NEXT APPOINTMENT:**

- The tape dressing on the surgery site should remain in place until your next appointment. However, if any bleeding occurs which stains the tape you can call our office to come in for a dressing change, apply additional tape, or you can get the tape very wet and gently remove it.
- Keep the taped dressing totally dry for 24 hours after surgery. After that, it is fine for some water to get on the tape while showering or bathing. However, do not allow the tape to become saturated with water unless you want to remove it.

**IF YOU HAVE STITCHES AND ABSORPTIVE BANDAGE, WHICH NEEDS CHANGING:**

- Dip a cotton swab in *hydrogen peroxide* diluted 50/50 with water and gently roll it over the stitches to remove any crust that may have formed, or you can use a saline spray.
- Put Vaseline ointment on a cotton swab and gently cover the stitches. We prefer that you do not use Neosporin or any other antibiotic ointments, as some people can develop an allergy to it.
- Repeat this once a day, until the stitches are removed.
- Place a bandage or Band-Aid over the stitches. Keep wound covered until you return to the office.

**IF YOUR WOUND IS HEALING ON ITS OWN WITHOUT SUTURES:**

- Clean the wound with saline solution or diluted hydrogen peroxide. Undiluted hydrogen peroxide may be too harsh for an open wound so it is best to dilute one part hydrogen peroxide with one part tap water.
- Put Vaseline ointment on a cotton swab and gently cover the wound (we prefer that you do not use Neosporin or any other antibiotic ointments, as some people can develop an allergy to it).
- Bandage the wound with Telfa cut to the size of the wound and paper tape. Telfa is a non-stick dressing that can be purchased at your local pharmacy. It is not essential to wear a bandage after the first day. However, it is very important to keep the wound moist with Vaseline ointment at all times. This helps with healing and scarring.
- Repeat twice daily until the wound is healed. It may take as long as 6-8 weeks for the wound to completely heal. Expect a thick yellowish substance to form in the wound.

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**WHAT TO EXPECT**

1. Expect some redness around the wound.
2. Expect swelling, especially for wounds on the face. The swelling will get worse before it gets better. The swelling will be at its worst on the third to fifth day after surgery. Ice can help alleviate pain and swelling.
3. Expect some bruising to develop around the wound. It may take two weeks for the bruising to subside.

**CALL IF YOU HAVE ANY SIGNS OR SYMPTOMS OF INFECTION**

1. Increased redness around the wound.
2. Increased drainage at the incision site. A slight amount of drainage is normal.
3. Increased tenderness at the incision site.
4. Fever of 101.0 or higher.

**FOLLOW UP AFTER YOUR SURGERY**

All scars take a long time to fully heal. Following your surgery, we will have you return to our office to discuss some of the things you can do to get your scar looking better faster. Laser scar treatment is one of the most effective ways of treating and managing scars. Our providers are available to perform laser treatments to help you achieve your best results. **Please note: Although you will not be charged for the laser, there will be an office visit charge.**