
Mohs/Dermatologic Surgery Unit

Wound Care for Graft Wounds

Practice good hand hygiene - always wash your hands with antibacterial soap before changing the dressing or touching your wound to apply medication.

- Please keep the surgical site elevated as much as possible. Relaxing in a reclined or sleeping on a couple of extra pillows may be helpful. This will help to keep swelling down.

- **You can expect some discomfort after the anesthesia wears off.** Two extra strength Tylenol taken every 4 hours will reduce pain. **IF** Tylenol does not reduce the pain to a tolerable level, take 500mg of Extra Strength Tylenol & 600mg Advil/Ibuprofen. If taking combination of Advil & Tylenol take every 6 hours. Be cautious as combination acts as a narcotic, no driving etc.. **Do not exceed 3,000mg of Tylenol in 24hrs.**

- If there is slight bleeding or oozing at the site, apply **constant, firm pressure for 15-20 minutes** (no peeking!). If oozing persists, or if the bandage becomes saturated with blood, contact us immediately.

- **Keep the wound covered at all times until you return to see us. Do not get bandage wet.**

- **Avoid bending, stooping over, heavy lifting, and straining for 3 days after surgery.**

- **Avoid rigorous exercise and activities for 2 weeks after surgery to ensure proper healing.**

- **Avoid alcohol and smoking** for several days after surgery. Alcohol is a blood thinner and could potentially cause bleeding. Smoking reduces blood flow to the healing wound.

- Skin grafts take several weeks to months to fully heal. The graft may appear purple and/or crusted when the bandage is removed. This is normal and the appearance should improve dramatically over the next few months. Occasionally, sanding (dermabrasion) or resurfacing (laser) procedures are used to improve texture and color of the graft no sooner than 2 months after the procedure.

- Please call our office at **253-851-7733** during business or after hours if the wound appears to be getting worse instead of better. Signs of infection are: increasing tenderness, redness, and swelling; drainage or oozing that appears pus-like; site feeling warm to the touch.