

Wound Care Instructions for Grafts

Your surgical wound has been repaired with a full-thickness skin graft. This is done by using skin from one area, usually behind or in front of the ear, to replace tissue lost in another area. To help the new skin that has been placed over the wound to take, you should wear a pressure dressing for the first week after surgery.

Care of the Graft Site

1. A plastic pressure dressing will be stitched onto the graft site. This dressing will stay on for one week. Do not move it or get it wet.
2. A bandaid may be placed over the plastic dressing.

FOR 48 HOURS AFTER SURGERY:

1. Relax and take it easy. Do not do any vigorous exercise or heavy lifting. This could cause the wound to bleed.
2. Post-operative pain is usually mild. You may Tylenol or Ibuprofen as needed.
3. You may see a small amount of drainage or blood on your pressure bandage, this is normal. If drainage or bleeding continues or saturates the bandage, call our office or go to the nearest emergency room.

Care of the Donor Site

1. The donor site has been repaired with sutures. Leave the bandage on and keep it dry for 48 hours.
2. After 48 hrs remove the bandage, clean the suture line twice a day with soap and water. Pat dry. Then apply antibiotic ointment and a bandaid or non-stick dressing.
3. You may shower or shampoo and get the sutures on the donor site wet. However, be careful not to get the plastic pressure dressing on your graft wet.

What is Normal

1. The skin around the graft may appear swollen and bruised for a few days.
2. The first couple of days your donor site might be tender and may bleed slightly when doing wound care.

Call Us If:

1. You have bleeding.

2. You have pain that is not controlled with plain relievers.
3. You have any questions or are not sure how to take care of the wound.

Doctor's Office.....(516) 741-1055