



## Absolute Dermatology & Skin Cancer Center

5207 Hickory Park Drive, Suite A Glen Allen, VA 23059

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### Mohs Wound Care Instructions & Information

You are leaving the clinic with a large pressure dressing over your wound. **This bandage should be left in place for 48 hours and it should NOT get wet.** Your surgical site is covered to maintain the moisture and prevent bacteria from getting to it. After 48 hours, you will remove the pressure dressing.

*\*If your surgical site begins to bleed or ooze, please hold pressure for 20 minutes WITHOUT lifting to check the site. If it continues to bleed, continue to hold pressure and call us at: 804-326-4448.\**

\_\_\_ you have ABSORBABLE SUTURES that will dissolve on their own over the next 5-7 days. This may result in redness and mild itching at the site that will resolve over time.

\_\_\_ you have TEMPORARY NON-DISSOLVING SUTURES that will need to be left in place for:

\_\_\_\_\_ 5-7 days          \_\_\_\_\_ 7-10 days          \_\_\_\_\_ 10-14 days

If instructed, please follow the appropriate wound care outlined below:

\_\_\_ **Tegaderm (clear dressing):** Your surgical site is covered with a clear, waterproof dressing called **Tegaderm**. This dressing will maintain the moisture of the surgical site and prevent bacteria from getting to it. After 48 hours:

- You may remove the pressure dressing, but leave the Tegaderm in place. This clear film is water-resistant-so you may get the area wet now.
- If there are sutures to be removed, the clear dressing should stay in place until suture removal (typically 5-7 days for facial sites and 10-14 days for non-facial locations).
- If there are no sutures, the Tegaderm should remain in place for 2 weeks.

\_\_\_ **Dermabond:** Your surgical site has a skin adhesive applied to the skin over the suture line. There are no stitches. This adhesive is waterproof and will keep bacteria out of the wound. Over the next 1-2 weeks, the adhesive will flake off on its own. You should **NOT** “help” it come off by scrubbing/ picking. This could result in a worse scar or an infection. No further direct care is necessary for the site.

\_\_\_ **Secondary Intent:** Your surgical site is being allowed to heal by second intention, meaning there is an open wound and no stitches. This healing process can take 4-8 weeks, depending on the anatomic location.

Once you have removed the pressure dressing after 48 hours:

- **Gently** cleanse with warm soap and water or warm water and hydrogen peroxide in a 50:50 mixture. A new, clean cotton ball or Qtip should be used each time the wound is cleaned.
- Apply a **liberal** amount of Vaseline, Aquaphor or other petrolatum ointment. **It is critical that the wound is kept moist while healing.**
- Replace bandage daily? If your skin is sensitive, it is best to use gauze and paper tape. Allergic reactions to adhesive materials in bandages can slow healing and be irritating.
- Continue this process until the entire wound is healed over and pink.
- **If at any time you decide to go without a bandage, make sure to apply Vaseline several times daily to prevent the wound from drying out.**

### Overall Guidelines

1) Limit activity to allow healing. It is best to elevate the area above the heart as much as possible to decrease swelling.

You may resume exercise in 2 weeks or after suture removal.

2) You may return to work the next day as long as you are not requiring pain medication and your job does not require strenuous activity.

3) While you are taking pain medication, we recommend that you also take a stool softener to help minimize constipation. Do NOT drive while taking prescription pain medication.

\*When do I call the office? Please call us at **(804) 326-4448** or email us at [support@absolutedermva.com](mailto:support@absolutedermva.com) if you have any questions or concerns that your wound is not healing normally or you develop fever, foul smelling drainage, marked redness, swelling, or intense pain as these symptoms indicate an infection.

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