



## Absolute Dermatology & Skin Cancer Center

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

T: (804) 326-4448, F: (309) 326-4947 [www.AbsoluteDermVA.com](http://www.AbsoluteDermVA.com)

### **Skin Graft Wound Care and Information**

\_\_\_ Skin Graft: Your surgical site was repaired using a skin graft. The skin graft is very fragile because it does not have a blood supply of its own and must establish a connection with the underlying wound bed. **It is critical that the graft remain undisturbed and moist for the postoperative period.**

Please perform the following in order to care for your skin graft:

- An outer tape dressing was placed over the surgical site in clinic. Ideally this should remain in place until you return to clinic in 1 week
  - If the outer dressing falls off, you may use a Q-tip to **gently** apply Vaseline around the edges of the bolster dressing (below) and reapply a thin bandage.
- A bolster dressing (yellow Vaseline gauze) was either sutured over the graft or was secured by adhesive strips. This dressing should be left in place until you return to clinic in 1 week.
  - If the bolster dressing falls off prior to returning to clinic, you should use a Q-tip to **gently** apply a liberal amount of Vaseline to cover the entire graft and reapply a bandage.
- Vaseline should be added and the bandage replaced once daily
- After your follow up visit for removal of the bolster dressing, you will continue to apply a liberal amount of Vaseline and keep the site covered with a bandage for the next two weeks.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**\*Does this big bolster bandage require any special care?**

No. Simply add copious amounts of Vaseline at least once daily so the site does not dry out. Keep in mind that skin grafts are especially delicate and try not to manipulate the area excessively. Sleep with head elevated more than usual to minimize swelling if the graft is on your face and try to sleep on your back.

**\*My surgical site is bleeding and won't stop, what do I do?** Hold pressure on the wound's bandage for 15 minutes without checking to see if it has stopped. If after 15 minutes, it continues to ooze, call the office and hold for another 15 minutes.

**\*Can I use anything to improve the appearance of my scar?** Diligent wound care using the above instructions is imperative in the first 2 weeks. After this, massage with Vaseline every night and sun protection every day can minimize the appearance and enhance the texture of the scar. Typically, over-the-counter scar gels are disappointing, but you may be a candidate for dermabrasion, an in-office procedure.

**\*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.