

Wound Care after a Shave or Punch Skin Biopsy or Electrodesiccation and Curettage Procedure

Studies have proven that wounds heal faster when scabs are **not** allowed to form. Follow these instructions to prevent scabs from forming. This will help your wounds to heal better.

1. Leave the original dressing in place for 24 hours.
2. Remove the old dressing before you take a bath or shower.
3. **Clean the wound once a day as follows:**
 - Allow water, shampoo and soap from shower to wash over the wound for 2 minutes. If a crust forms, mix a solution of half tap water and half 3% hydrogen peroxide. Use this to clean gently around the wound with a cotton-tipped swab (Q-tip).
4. Dry the wound with clean cotton-tipped swab (Q-tip) or gauze.
5. Use a clean cotton-tipped swab and apply a thick layer of Aquaphor or Vaseline.
DO NOT USE NEOSPORIN OR POLYSPORIN.
6. Cover the wound with a bandage. For example, use a band-aid or Telfa pad and tape. If you prefer not to use a band-aid and you want to leave the wound open to the air, apply Vaseline or Aquaphor ointment frequently. Keep the wound covered with Aquaphor or Vaseline at all times.
7. Use acetaminophen (Tylenol) if you have discomfort. If you are not able to take Tylenol, ask your doctor what medicine to take for pain.
8. If a dissolvable stitch has been placed it will dissolve within 3-4 weeks. If the stitch is blue or black the stitch is likely non-dissolvable and will require removal. Typically non-dissolvable stitches are removed 7-14 days after the procedure.

Report any of these symptoms to your physician:

- Increase in redness
- Swelling
- Increasing or severe pain
- Drainage of pus
- Fever over 100.5 degrees
- If bleeding occurs which you cannot stop with firm pressure for 20 minutes

Who to Call

- DermAssociates, PC at 301.681.7000 for problems Monday through Friday from 8am to 4pm. Ask for your physician and inform the staff you have a problem with your biopsy site.
- For urgent problems in the evenings or after hours, call 301.681.7000.
After the prompt, press 1 to contact the physician on call.
- If you have not received a report of your skin biopsy either by mail or by phone within 2 weeks after your biopsy, please call our office.