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COSMETIC DERMATOLOGY • MOHS SKIN CANCER SURGERY • DERMATOLOGIC SURGERY

American College of Mohs Micrographic Surgery and Cutaneous Oncology

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Recommendation for wound care following Mohs surgery, surgical excision, or biopsy (Surgery with Stitches)

PRECAUTIONS

1. If blood-tinged fluid appears on the bandage during the first several hours after surgery, apply firm pressure over the bandage. If that fails to stop it, call the doctor's office.
2. **If, at any time, a growing firm lump is felt below the skin, call the doctor's office.** However, some soft swelling may be expected. Occasionally, a bruise may occur.
3. **If severe inflammation** (tenderness, redness, heat and swelling) occurs around the wound, **call the doctor's office immediately.**

WOUND CARE AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONS

1. If a bandage has been applied, **keep it dry.** Remove it about 24 to 48 hours after surgery, after you bath or shower.
2. Once a day thereafter, sponge the wound with tap water on a Q-tip to thoroughly remove blood and crusts. Then apply a coating of an **ointment** – vaseline, white petrolatum or Aquaphor ointment. These ointments can be obtained at a pharmacy without a prescription. Wound care should be done daily until stitches are removed and is best done following bath or shower.
3. A “pressure bandage” should be in place over the involved area for the first 24 to 48 hours. Thereafter, a simple bandage or Band-Aid will suffice.
4. Generally the wound is best kept dry. Under no circumstances should the wound be immersed under water, as in a pool or spa. However, no shower or bath is allowed until at least 24 hours after surgery.
5. Mild to moderate **pain** may occur during the first two or three days after surgery. I recommend Extra Strength Tylenol. Drugs containing aspirin, naproxen or ibuprofen should be avoided in the first two postoperative days. If Extra Strength Tylenol does not control the pain, please call the office.
6. **REMEMBER:** Keep your appointment for return visits. These visits are arranged so that complications can be avoided and to remove stitches as needed.
7. Your stitches will be removed in _____ days on _____ .

Note: You may receive a separate bill from the laboratory for pathology services. Please call the laboratory with any questions.