

Bruce P. Robinson, MD, FAAD

Diplomate American Board of Dermatology
121 East 60th Street, Second Floor
New York, New York 10022
Website: www.BruceRobinsonMD.com
Tele: 1 (212) 750 – 7121
Email: info@brucerobinsonmd.com

WOUND CARE AFTER MINOR SURGERY

Please observe the following guidelines for cleaning and caring for your wound. Your cooperation in aftercare will prevent infection and promote the best possible healing.

1. If your wound has suture(s) please keep the bandage the doctor has placed on the wound for 24 hrs. and refrain from getting it wet. After 24 hours it may get wet in a shower but cannot be submerged under water like in a bathtub or pool. If it does not have sutures the bandage may come off right before showering the following morning. It may get wet after in the shower but please refrain from getting it wet before the following morning of the minor surgery.
2. The wound needs to be cleaned twice a day. The shower counts for one cleaning (the bandage should be removed and the water allowed to hit it). The second cleaning of the day consists of making a dilute hydrogen peroxide solution. Take one cap full of hydrogen peroxide and place it in a bowl and dilute it with a cup of room temperature tap water. Apply the dilute hydrogen peroxide solution to a washcloth or gauze (you do not need sterile gauze) and let it sit on the wound for 5-10 minutes. Avoid cotton balls.
3. Gently pat the wound dry and apply a thin layer of antibiotic ointment (Bacitracin, Mupirocin, Bactroban or Altabax) as long as you are not allergic to it.
4. Cover the wound with a new bandage (Band-Aid or Non-Adherent Dressing with paper tape). Rotate the bandage so the adhesive does not irritate the surrounding skin.
5. Continue the wound care procedure twice a day until the wound is completely healed or until you return for your follow-up visit.
6. If soreness or pain is a problem within the first 24 hours. please take Tylenol (Acetaminophen). Avoid drinking alcohol, taking aspirin or Ibuprofen in the first 24 hrs. as they can promote bleeding.

WHEN TO CALL THE DOCTOR:

1. If the wound bleeds after surgery apply constant pressure for fifteen minutes. If the bleeding does not stop call the doctor.
2. Infection is seldom a problem but will be indicated by increasing tenderness, swelling or pain usually beginning on the 2nd or 3rd days after surgery and perhaps associated with some drainage/discharge from the wound.