

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Your surgical wound has been covered with a sterile dressing prior to your discharge from hospital.
 - This dressing is designed to keep the wound protected from organisms (bugs) that may cause infection.
 - The dressing should be left in place and undisturbed for 48 hours following your procedure.
 - This allows the edges of skin to seal together and provide a barrier to organisms (bugs), thus reducing the risks of infection.
1. If the wound bleeds apply pressure for 10 to 20 minutes, contact your GP or Emergency Department.
 2. You may experience some discomfort when local anaesthetic wears off, If there are no contradictions take a mild pain killer.
 3. Avoid exercise/activity that may exert tension on your wound and or sutures

CARE OF THE WOUND

1. After 48 hours wash your hands thoroughly and remove the outer dressing gently. If Steri-Strips present, your doctor will advise you re:- care of same.
2. Clean the wound from the inside out, using cooled boiled water and gauze. (Some doctors may recommend a medi-swab is used as an alternative to this method).
3. Pat the area dry gently with a clean piece of gauze.
4. You may leave the wound exposed at this stage provided it is dry.

- However, if you notice some slight bleeding or a clear ooze from the wound, cover it again with a clean dressing and repeat the steps 1-4 above daily until it is dry.
- Examine the wound daily for signs of infection - see below.
- If you notice two of these possible signs of infection, you should contact your Consultant or your Local GP for advice.

Signs of Infection -

(Any 2 or more of the signs below may indicate infection. Please contact your doctor or ANP plastics as you may need a prescription.)

- Redness and heat spreading from the incision (cut) line.
- Yellow /green pus seeping from the wound.
- A foul smell from the wound.
- Increased pain/throbbing from the wound
- Feeling suddenly feverish and unwell.

REMOVAL OF SUTURES/CLIPS

- Some wounds may be sealed with dissolvable sutures. These will not be visible on the wound as they are under the skin. They will slowly dissolve and do not need to be removed.
- Other wounds may be sealed with clips or stitches.
- Steri strips (Paper stitches) are small white strips that are stretched over the incision (cut) line to hold it in place. They will fall off over time.
- Other stitches or clips will need to be removed a number of days after the procedure.
- You may go to your local G.P. or health Centre to have these removed.

The nurse preparing you for discharge will explain which type of sutures you have and will tick the relevant box below

You have had

Sutures

Staples

Steri strips

applied to your wound on this admission.

You should attend to have these removed on

You do not need to have these removed

(see above)

You should attend the dressing clinic on

If you have a very urgent concern relating to your immediate recovery from surgery, please contact your GP or attend the Emergency Department.

Contact Numbers:

Mr. Martin Secretary 01 7974781

Mr. Kneafsey Secretary 01 7974781

Mr. Sullivan Secretary 01 7974781

Mr. Ajmal Secretary 01 8093309

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Further Information:

If you have any queries contact Onco Plastics

Advanced Nurse Practitioner

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Beaumont Hospital
Surgical Directorate

Patient Information
on

**CARE OF YOUR WOUND
FOLLOWING SURGERY**