

PLASTIC SURGERY CENTER OF ST. JOSEPH, INC.
816.364.6416

HOME INSTRUCTIONS ATER YOUR SURGERY

1. Keep the sutured area(s) clean and dry with the dressing in place for the first 24 hours.
2. You may apply an ice pack off and on the first day to reduce bruising and swelling.
3. You may get sutured area(s) wet the day after your procedure. Wash gently with soap and water in shower or bath.
4. You may leave the sutured area(s) open to air after the first day. However, if the area is covered by clothing, reapply a gauze dressing to avoid irritating or infecting the sutures.
5. Clean the sutured area(s) with Hydrogen Peroxide diluted with water (half-and-half). Pat the area until dry, and then follow with a thin layer of Bacitracin or Polysporin ointment.

NOTE: Both the Hydrogen Peroxide and Bacitracin may be purchased as over-the-counter supplies at your pharmacy.

6. Do suture care 3-4 times daily on open areas. Please change areas covered with a dressing once or twice daily. Wound care will decrease crusting, facilitate suture removal, and reduce the chances of unfavorable scarring.
7. Please do not shave the area with sutures.
8. Most patients do not need prescription pain medication. Tylenol, one to two tablets every six hours, is adequate for most procedures.
9. If you stopped aspirin or Coumadin for your surgery, you may resume this the night of the procedure.
10. Patients do not need antibiotics in most cases. If the doctor prescribes antibiotics, take them until they are gone. If any side effects occur, discontinue the medication and call Dr. De Priest.
11. After excising a lesion, the doctor must remove "darts" of skin to get the skin to lie flat with suturing. Therefore, the length of repair always looks 3-4 times longer than what you might expect. This is often a source of concern, but the longer incision follows the grain of the skin and gives the best result.
12. If we sent a specimen to the hospital, you will receive two separate bills. One will be from the hospital and the other will be from the pathologist who reads the slides. Please call the hospital (816-271-6000) with questions about lab or pathology billing.