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POST-OPERATIVE WOUND CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Keep the initial dressing/bandaid in place and dry for as long as possible, but for at least 24 hours. Only change the dressing if it gets wet or starts to come off: this initial dressing/bandaid may be kept on during the entire 10-14 day wound care period if possible.

1. Wash your hands before and after changing the dressing.
2. Clean the wound with soap and water, and then pat dry.
3. Apply white petroleum jelly to the affected area, unless otherwise specified. Do not use Neosporin, Polysporin, Bacitracin, or any other over the counter topical antibiotics.
4. Cover with a bandaid, gauze or waterproof bandage if possible.

You may shower or bathe after the first 24 hours. Try to keep the bandage dry during bathing/showering and replace bandage if it gets wet. This can be accomplished by applying Saran Wrap over bandage prior to showering/bathing. Continue this for seven to ten days or until sutures, if any, are removed. Failure to keep wound covered can increase risk of scarring and/or infection.

If a “shave” or a “scraping” was performed (no sutures): a white-colored or yellow appearance to the site is normal. If a cream or green color is observed, please call the office. If irritation occurs from the bandaid’s adhesive, remove the bandaid and reapply the bandaid, applying the adhesive at a different angle, or keep the area covered using paper tape. If irritation continues, call the office.

During the healing process, you may notice a pink to a red-colored ring around the wound. This is normal. If any increasing redness and/or pain/tenderness to the area occurs, please call the office.

If the wound starts to bleed, apply continuous pressure to the area for 15 minutes. Do not check to see if the bleeding has stopped for at least 15 minutes.

For pain or discomfort, use Tylenol. Do not use any aspirin, Anacin, Bufferin, Excedrin, or aspirin-containing products, along with ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin, etc.) which may cause bleeding.

If you have any questions or problems, please call the office.

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