

After Your Mohs Surgery

ANTIBIOTICS Please remember to pick up your antibiotic prescription from your pharmacy!

BANDAGE If pressure bandage was applied, keep it on for 24-72 hours, unless instructed otherwise.

After removing the pressure bandage, clean the area as follows.

- Please get a standard small bottle of Hydrogen Peroxide Solution. You will need to make a half strength solution; this is easy to do. Pour out one half of the hydrogen peroxide bottle and refill it to the top with water. This is the solution you will use to clean all incisions.
- Take a cotton swab or gauze and saturate it with the hydrogen peroxide solution. Gently clean the incisions being careful to not traumatize or pull the incision apart. It is very important to do this gently by only dabbing and never rubbing the incision. This step will help clean the wound by breaking down any dried blood and/or crusts that have formed. You may see the solution fizz and bubble when applied. This is normal.
- Apply prescribed antibiotic ointment (if you were prescribed one) or petrolatum or Aquaphor, as directed, and apply a new bandage if there is any oozing. Repeat this daily until you are seen for follow up. If there is no oozing, you may leave the wound uncovered or cover with a loose dressing or a band-aid, but continue to apply the ointment.

WOUND CARE If your surgical site is on the arms or legs, please elevate the area as often as possible. If your surgical site is on the face, you may use ice packs to control swelling. Apply ice pack for up to 10 minutes every 1-2 hours and repeat as needed during the first 48 hours. Please note it is common for swelling and bruising to continue beyond the 72-hour period, especially around the eyes and lips. It is normal for the wound area to be numb for several weeks.

MEDICATION Take Tylenol (acetaminophen) or prescribed pain medication for pain as needed. You can take up to 3,000 mg per 24 hrs. If this is not enough, you can add ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil) up to 2,400 mg per 24 hrs, or naproxen (Aleve). You should continue your daily aspirin or other blood thinners. Take oral antibiotics as directed. If prescribed medications cause rash or diarrhea, STOP and call our office immediately.

BATHING You may shower with soap/shampoo and lukewarm water the day after the surgery, unless instructed otherwise. Please do not shave over sutures.

WORK You may go to work as usual unless instructed otherwise; just make sure to take it easy.

RESTRICTIONS No heavy lifting. No strenuous exercise or running. No alcohol for 24 hours. Avoid bending over. No smoking for one week! Smoking inhibits blood flow to the healing wound.

INFECTION In spite of best wound care and antibiotics, wound infections may happen. They usually start on days 4-6 after the operation. The most common signs and symptoms are pain, redness, swelling, scabbing and pus. If you suspect wound infection, call our office immediately.

FOLLOW-UP One to two weeks as directed for suture removal. If you have all dissolving sutures, they will dissolve within 1-2 weeks. Sometimes the knots at the ends are slower to dissolve. If not dissolved in 2 weeks, you may snip them with fine scissors and pull them out with clean tweezers. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call our office.

AFTER HOURS If you have an urgent matter after hours, please call the office and listen to the prompts. You will be connected to the answering service who can contact the surgeon who performed your repair, if needed.

Your Mohs surgery was performed by Dr. Zeltser or Dr. Carucci. The closure was done by Dr. Zeltser, Dr. Carucci, Dr. Mashkevich, or Dr. Frants. When reaching out with questions after hours, please be sure to ask our answering service to contact the surgeon who performed your repair.

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