

After Your Mohs Surgery - for skin grafts only

ANTIBIOTICS As part of the wound-care process, please assume there is a prescription to be picked up, unless told otherwise.

BANDAGE If pressure bandage was applied, keep it on until you are seen back (typically in one week).

- If the bandage become loose, you can re-secure it with additional tape or, if you are having difficulty, call us and come to the office, and we will secure or change it for you.
- Please try to keep the bandage dry. You can usually accomplish this by using a plastic shower cap or plastic food wrap while in the shower. If the bandage becomes wet, simply let it dry or, if it is completely soaked and unclean, call us and come to the office, and we will change it for you.
- In general, please try to not disturb the graft bandage. Keep it intact until your schedule suture removal appointment. If the graft was on the nose, you might have a small bandage stitched inside the nostril. Please do not try to pull it out.

GRAFT SITE 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 or scalp, 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 forehead, eyes, and lips. It is normal for the wound area to be numb for several weeks to months.

GRAFT DONOR SITE WOUND CARE You may remove this bandage in 24-72 hrs if desired, or just keep it on until your next appointment. If you remove it, please apply petrolatum, Vaseline, Aquaphor, or a prescribed antibiotic ointment, if directed, and apply a new bandage or Band-aid if there is any oozing or bleeding. Minor oozing/bleeding from this site is normal. It is OK to get this site wet in the shower if you remove the bandage.

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.

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

RESTRICTIONS No heavy lifting, yoga, swimming, golfing, skiing, running or any other strenuous exercise for 2 weeks post-op. 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.

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**.