

Wound Care Guidelines

Patient Guide

Dermabond (a surgical glue) covers the incision and stays on for several days after surgery. It should not be removed; it peels off on its own. You may shower using a mild soap, allowing the incision to become wet, but patting it dry carefully. If you have skin staples, they will be removed at your week one post-surgical visit with your surgeon.

We take special precautions to avoid surgical incision infections, by carefully controlling bleeding before the wound is closed and by using antibiotics at the time of surgery. However, it is possible for fluid to collect beneath the skin and become infected. Swelling, redness, tenderness or drainage can sometimes even occur weeks after the operation.

To avoid infection, keep the incision(s) clean by washing or showering. If signs of infection – such as swelling, redness, tenderness or drainage – occur, call the surgeon’s office for further instructions. As a general principle, fluid collected as a result of an infection should be allowed (or helped) to leave the body. Drainage is beneficial and healthy.

Do not use any oils, creams, balms, salves, ointments or lotions on new incisions until they have completely closed. Using these products before the incision has closed may trap bacteria in the wound, later causing an infection. Once the wound is healed, you may begin using these products, if you wish, to minimize scarring and make yourself feel more comfortable.