

SKIN GRAFT WOUND CARE

Recipient Site

1. Leave the bolster dressing in place and dry for one week.
2. Expect some swelling (usually peaks at 48 to 72 hours), bruising, redness and pain in and around the graft. Take Tylenol every 4 to 6 hours as needed for any discomfort. If your surgery was on the scalp or face, it is normal to develop swelling and bruising around the eyes. Sleeping with an extra pillow and keeping your head elevated may alleviate some of these symptoms. You may also use an ice pack on the wound for 15 minutes every hour while awake.
3. If swelling, redness and/or tenderness on or around the surgical site increases or persists for more than 3 days, contact our office as this could represent an infection starting.
4. If bleeding should occur, apply firm uninterrupted pressure with clean gauze to the wound for 20 minutes. If bleeding has not stopped, apply pressure for 30 more minutes. In the rare event that bleeding continues, call our office or go to the nearest emergency room for assistance.

Donor Site

1. Keep the dressing on and dry for 48 hours. After 48 hours, you may remove the **OUTER** bandage; this is most easily accomplished by getting the entire bandage wet. If Steri-strips were applied, under the outer bandage, blot dry and leave in place, no further wound care is necessary. If Steri-strips were not applied or come off during bathing/showering, a thin amount of ointment (Polysporin, bacitracin or Aquaphor) should be applied to the sutures and covered with a Bandaid.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call our office.

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