



Suture Care Instructions

PATIENT EDUCATION SERIES

You have required stitches today. Please read the following instructions so you know how to care for them:

1. Keep wound area dry for the first 24 hours.
2. Apply antibiotic ointment (e.g. Bacitracin) and a clean Band-Aid or dressing daily for 48 hours. After 2 days, you may leave the sutures uncovered. May clean gently with mild soap and water or 1/2 strength hydrogen peroxide, after 48 hours to prevent crusting over suture knots.
3. You may shower if your provider gives permission but do not take a bath until the skin is healed. Change the dressing after your shower.
4. Never leave a wet dressing or Band-Aid on your stitches as this allows bacteria to reach the area and may cause infection.

Watch for signs of infection:

- Increasing redness, tenderness or warmth around the suture site
- Unusual swelling around the site
- Appearance of pus around each suture or any red streaks
- Fever

If you develop any of the above signs or symptoms of infection, please call 863-3953 or come to Health Services to have the area checked.

5. When sutures are removed depends on how well the wound is healing and where it is located. Sutures are usually removed from the eyelids in 3 days; the face in 3 to 5 days; the torso in 7 to 10 days; the hands and feet in 7 to 10 days, and scalp 7 days.
6. Return to Health Services to have your sutures removed. This can be done by any medical provider during regular walk-in hours on Monday through Friday, or by appointment.

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