Suture Removal

You have had your sutures (stitches) removed today. This means your wound has healed well enough to take out your stitches. Be careful to protect the wound area over the next several weeks. An injury this area could cause the cut to split open again. It usually takes 1-2 years for a scar to get its full strength and loose its redness. For wounds that heal slowly, tapes may be applied to reinforce the skin for several days after the stitches are removed.

You may allow the sutured area to get wet. Topical antibiotics (antibiotics you put on your skin) are not usually needed at this point. Applying vitamin E oil and aloe vera ointments may help the wound heal faster and stronger. Some scars form extra pigment with exposure to sunlight during the first 6-12 months after repair. This can be prevented by using a sun block (SPF 15-30) on the affected area. Call your doctor if you have any concerns about your injury. **Call right away if you have any evidence of wound infection such as increased pain, drainage, redness, or swelling**.

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