Care After Staple Removal

The staples used to close your skin have been removed. The wound needs continued care so it can heal completely and without problems. The care described here will need to be done for another 5-10 days unless your caregiver advises otherwise.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Keep wound site dry and clean.
- If skin adhesive strips were applied after the staples were removed, they will begin to peel off in a few days. If they remain after fourteen days, they may be peeled off and discarded.
- If you still have a dressing, change it at least once a day or as instructed by your caregiver. If the bandage sticks, soak it off with warm water. Pat dry with a clean towel. Look for signs of infection (see below).
- Reapply cream or ointment according to your caregiver's instruction. This will help prevent infection and keep the bandage from sticking. Use of a non-stick material over the wound and under the dressing or wrap will also help keep the bandage from sticking.
- If the bandage becomes wet, dirty, or develops a foul smell, change it as soon as possible.
- New scars become sunburned easily. Use sunscreens with sunscreen protection factor (SPF) of at least 15 when out in the sun.
- Only take over-the-counter or prescription medicines for pain, discomfort, or fever as directed by your caregiver.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- There is redness, swelling, or increasing pain in the wound.
- Pus is coming from the wound.
- An unexplained oral temperature above 102º F (38.9º C) develops.
- You notice a foul smell coming from the wound or dressing.
- There is a breaking open of the suture line (edges not staying together) of the wound edges after staples have been removed.

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