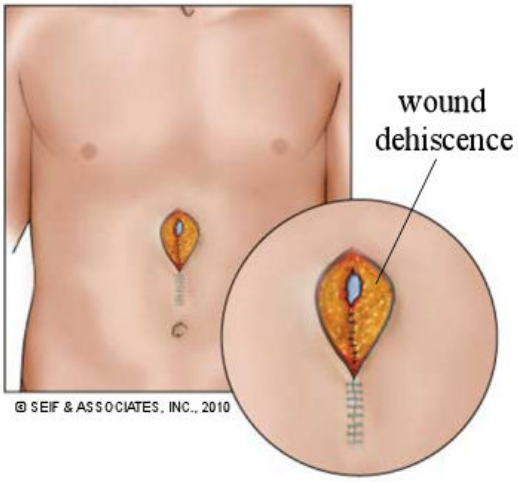
Wound Dehiscence, Wound Failure

A wound dehiscence or wound failure is an opening in an incision. This typically happens in a belly wound that does not heal properly after surgery. A wound dehiscence can be caused from:

- Infection in the surgery site.
- Poor nutrition.
- Obesity.



HOME CARE

- Make sure you eat a healthy diet. Eat plenty of fruits, vegetables and lean protein.
- Do not soak the wound, bathe or swim until your wound is healed.
- Do not smoke. Smoking can slow wound healing.
- Do not lift more than ten pounds until the wound is healed or as told by your doctor.
- You may need to use a stool softener so you do not strain when you have a bowel movement.
- If your wound needs dressing changes, follow your doctor's instructions.
- Take all medicine as told by your doctor.

SYMPTOMS

- Redness around the incision site.
- Drainage from the incision. The drainage can be either:
  - Clear, light yellow fluid.
  - Tan or yellow drainage.
- Pain in the incision site.
- Fever.

SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You have increased pain in your wound that does not get better with medicine.
- There is increased redness or swelling around the wound.
- The wound is draining yellow, tan or green fluid.
- The wound has a bad odor coming from it.
- You have a fever above 102° F (38.9° C).

MAKE SURE YOU:

- Understand these instructions.
- Will watch your condition.
- Will get help right away if you are not doing well or get worse.

Document Released: 12/06/2010
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