Suture Removal

Your caregiver has removed your sutures today. If skin adhesive strips were applied at the time of suturing, or applied following removal of the sutures today, they will begin to peel off in a couple more days. If skin adhesive strips remain after fourteen days, they may be removed. Keep wound site dry and clean. New scars become sunburned easily. Use sunscreens when out in the sun.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- 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, soapy water.
- Twice a day, wash the area with soap and water to remove all the cream/ointment (if you were instructed to use any). You may do this in a sink, under a tub faucet or in a shower. Rinse off the soap and pat dry with a clean towel. Look for signs of infection (see below).
- Reapply cream/ointment according to your caregiver's instruction. This will help prevent infection and keep the bandage from sticking.
- If the bandage becomes wet, dirty, or develops a foul smell, change it as soon as possible.
- 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 102° F (38.9° 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 sutures have been removed.

YOU MIGHT NEED A TETANUS SHOT NOW IF:

- You have no idea when you had the last one.
- You have never had a tetanus shot before.
- Your cut had dirt in it.

If you need a tetanus shot, ***and you decide not to get one***, there is a rare chance of getting tetanus. Sickness from tetanus can be serious.

If you got a tetanus shot, your arm may swell, get red and warm to the touch at the shot site. This is common and not a problem.

Return to your caregivers office in in 7 days or as directed to have your sutures removed.

Document Released: 04/07/2004 Document Re-Released: 01/09/2011
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