Staple Wound Closure

Keep the area around the staples clean and dry. Rest and raise (*elevate*) the injured part above the level of your heart. This will help to decrease the pain and puffiness (*swelling*).

HOME CARE

- See your doctor or return for a follow-up check of the wound.
- See your doctor or return to have the staples removed.
- As the wound heals, you may leave it open to the air and clean it daily with water.
- **Do not** soak the wound in water for long periods of time.
- Watch for signs of a wound infection:
  - Unusual redness or puffiness around the wound.
  - Increasing pain or tenderness.
  - Fluid (*pus*) coming from the wound.

GET HELP RIGHT AWAY IF:

- You think the wound is infected.
- The wound does not stay together after the staples have been taken out.
- Something comes out of the wound, such as wood or glass.
- You or your child has problems moving the injured area.
- You or your child has a temperature by mouth above 102° F (38.9° C), not controlled by medicine.

YOU MIGHT NEED A TETANUS SHOT IF:

- You cannot remember when your or your child's last tetanus shot was.
- You or your child has never had a tetanus shot.
- The object that caused the wound was dirty.

MAKE SURE YOU:

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

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