Sutured Wound Care

Your cut has been cleaned and closed with sutures, also called stitches. You should keep the area around your wound clean and dry until the stitches are removed. Rest and elevate the injured area until all the pain and swelling are gone.

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HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Change your dressing daily unless your caregiver tells you differently.
- Avoid stretching a sutured wound.
- On some sutured wounds your caregiver may want you to do certain things. Please make sure you know how your caregiver wants you to care for your wound. Treatment recommendation may include:
  - Apply a topical antibiotic ointment on the sutured wound.
  - Stop using a dressing after 2 days or after the wound stops draining.
  - Cleaning the wound gently with soap and water once daily after 48 hours
- Use sunscreen on your wound for the next 3-6 months to reduce darkening of the scar.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ATTENTION IF:

- If the wound becomes red, swollen, hot, tender, or pus starts to drain.
- If you develop a fever, shaking chills.
- Bleeding persists from the sutured wound.

SUTURE REMOVAL:

- Remember to return to your caregiver as instructed for suture removal. General guidelines to return for suture removal are:
  - 5 days for the face.
  - 7 days for the scalp.
  - 10 days for the extremities and the trunk.

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