

## POST-PROCEDURE CARE - Skin Grafts

Graft site - Leave the bandage over your skin graft in place, clean, and dry. We will remove it at your next visit. It is **very important** that this bandage stays intact. You can reinforce it if needed, or we will do it for you at our office if it loosens.

- **Donor site:** Keep bandage dry and in place for 48 hours.
- At this time, remove the white bandage and tape.
- Wash directly over the Steri-Strips with clean hands, mild soap and water. DO NOT use a washcloth. Pat dry.
- You do not need to cover the Steri-Strips, they act as a bandage.
- As the Steri-Strips fall off, continue to wash the incision as instructed. If there is dried blood or crusting, using a Q-tip, go over the incision with hydrogen peroxide. Pat dry. If there is no crusting, you do not need to use hydrogen peroxide.
- Apply a thin layer of Vaseline over the incision rubbed in a circular motion with your fingers.
- Wash the area once a day, but apply Vaseline 2-3 times daily.
- Our goal is to keep the area clean and moist at all times.

### Activity

- No lifting over 10 pounds, strenuous sports, exercising, physical therapy, or bending at the waist for 1 week.
- Chew softer food for 24-48 hours.

### Bleeding

- A small amount of bleeding on the bandage is normal.
- If blood soaks through the bandage, apply firm pressure with your thumb directly over the bandage for 20 minutes.
- DO NOT use ice to apply pressure.

### Tips

- Rest and minimize activity the day of surgery!
- You WILL have swelling and bruising around the incision and surrounding areas.
- Apply an ice pack (wrapped in a lightweight towel) over the wound for 20 min at a time as often as you'd like.
- Take Tylenol and/or ibuprofen as needed for pain.
- Your suture line is always much longer than you anticipate.
- Your incision will look red, lumpy, bumpy, and swollen for several weeks.
- Do your wound care as instructed, including the day of your follow-up appointment.

### When to call our office

- ✓ If bleeding does not stop after 20 min of firm pressure.
- ✓ If Tylenol or Ibuprofen does not relieve your pain.
- ✓ If your wound was initially doing well but becomes increasingly painful, warm to touch, drains a pus-like substance, or you develop fever and chills.
- ✓ With any questions or concerns.

If calling our office with non-emergent question, your call may be returned after 2PM.  
For after-hour emergencies, call the same number and the on-call physician will return your call.  
For non-emergent inquiries, you may email concerns or photos to [info@rochesterdermsurgery.com](mailto:info@rochesterdermsurgery.com).