

DERMATOLOGY CENTER OF ROCKLAND, P.C.
Diplomates American Board of Dermatology

Robert J. Cohen, M.D.
Ingrid H. Olhoffer, M.D.
Joshua P. Fogelman, M.D.
Amy Goldstein, D.O.
Elizabeth H. Knobler, M.D.

PREL PLAZA
60 Dutch Hill Road, Suite 18
Orangeburg, NY 10962-1722
Phone (845) 359-4770
Fax (845) 359-0017
www.rocklanddermatology.com

**MOHS SKIN CANCER SURGERY UNIT
PATIENT INSTRUCTIONS
FOLLOWING MICROSCOPICALLY CONTROLLED SURGERY**

GENTLE WOUND CARE

You will be going home with a bulky pressure dressing on. This can be removed the morning after surgery.

It is fairly common for the incision to begin oozing or bleeding, especially in the first few hours after surgery. This can effectively be controlled by applying direct pressure on the bleeding site with a clean bandage for 15 minutes by the clock. You should also expect to have some black and blueness around the wound from the surgery.

If you have some discomfort following surgery, take two extra-strength Tylenol every 4-6 hours, but do not take aspirin or aspirin containing products (such as Alka-Seltzer, Anacin, Ibuprofen, Excedrin, Advil, Bufferin, and many “cold pills”).

Rest. Avoid strenuous exercise, bending, straining, stooping, or lifting any heavy objects for as long as you have stitches. Sometimes these motions can start bleeding from the incision.

Sleep with your head elevated with two pillows if you have had facial surgery, it will help to decrease any swelling that might occur after surgery. If you have had surgery on your lower or upper lip, please eat soft foods for the first few days after surgery. Remove your dressing before meals; this will make eating and drinking easier for you.

BANDAGE CHANGING INFORMATION

Remove the old bandage and gently clean the area with tap water using either a gauze pad or a Q-tip then pat dry. You may shower daily and let the shower water GENTLY cleanse your wound. Gently apply Vaseline to the wound. A light coat is applied easily with a Q-tip. Cover the wound with a light gauze dressing and two pieces of paper tape. Avoid adhesive tape which is likely to irritate the surrounding normal skin. It is important to keep your wound covered.

Keep the area dry. Clean area once a day and apply a clean fresh dressing. If it gets wet while bathing, change the dressing. Wounds which are constantly wet tend to get infected.

You will return to our office in 5 to 7 days for suture removal by one of the nurses. In about 4 weeks, some patients may develop a pimple along the suture line. If this should occur, please call the office. Your wound is not infected, but rather a buried stitch has not been absorbed by your body.

Should any unexpected circumstances require that you obtain more information or if you have any problems, such as unusual swelling, pain, bleeding or drainage of the surgical site, you may reach the Doctors or surgery nurses at (845) 359-4770 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. Weekends, holidays and evenings call (845) 359-4770 and leave a message on the emergency voice mail with the nature of the problem, your name and telephone number where you can be reached. The dermatologist “on call” will contact you.

ITEMS TO BE PURCHASED AT THE PHARMACY:

VASELINE
NON-STICK GAUZE (TELFA)
PAPER TAPE