

Wound Care

What to Expect After Surgery

- You will experience mild discomfort after surgery. You may take Ibuprofen or Tylenol as needed if they are not contraindicated for you. If the pain is still not controlled with these over-the-counter medications, please fill the prescription pain medication script you may have received from our office and take as directed.
- You will have bruising and swelling at the surgery site. These vary from person to person. Call Dr. Yoon if there is increased or significant pain with the bruising or swelling. The areas around the eyes are most sensitive and in some cases the eye may swell shut.
- Expect a slight discharge from the wound for the first few days. If discharge starts to smell bad or becomes purulent call Dr. Yoon.
- The surgery site will take months to regain strength. Be gentle with the area. The surgery site can take up to six months to fully heal.

Dressing Care Instructions

- Begin dressing changes 48 hours after surgery unless told otherwise.
- After 48 hours, remove the pressure dressing. Gently cleanse the wound with soap and warm water. Blot dry.
- Apply a generous amount of Vaseline or Aquaphor along the suture line, or open wound.
- Cover wound with telfa, non-stick pad, or Band-Aid if you prefer. If the wound is still draining, reinforce the bandage with gauze and secure dressing with tape.
- Repeat cleaning the wound and dressing changes daily.
 - For wounds with stitches on the:
 - Face/neck – Keep moist with Vaseline for 5-7 days.
 - Scalp – Keep moist with Vaseline for 10-14 days.
 - Tunk or extremities- Keep moist for with Vaseline 10-14 days

Bleeding After Surgery

- If you experience bleeding DO NOT remove the bandage. Reinforce the bandage with more gauze and pressure. Apply 15 Minutes of pressure on the site then off for 10 minutes. Repeat 3 times.
- If the bleeding continues after 3 times of pressure or if bleeding is pulsing, call Dr. Yoon on his cell phone right away.
- You may also add a cold compress or bag of ice to the top of the bandage as cooling the area can inhibit bleeding.
- Remember to take your blood pressure medication if you have hypertension as it will exacerbate bleeding if uncontrolled.

Signs of Infection

- The chances of infection after skin surgery are low, but it does happen.
- The most common sign of infection is increasing pain at the surgery site.
- Other signs include bad odor, increased redness, increased warmth, and purulent discharge.
- If you notice any of these or suspect an infection, call Dr. Yoon on his cell phone.

When to Call Dr. Yoon

- If you have uncontrolled bleeding.
- If you have a fever, higher than 101.3, or chills.
- If pain at the surgery site increases and is not being controlled with pain medication.
- If you develop signs of infection.
- If the wound breaks open

FOR AN IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY, CALL 911 OR DRIVE TO THE NEAREST EMERGENCY ROOM.