

Explaining your wound care

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What is a surgical wound?

A surgical wound is the cut made in your skin by your surgeon during your operation. At the end of your operation the cut in your skin is stitched to enable the wound to heal properly. Everyone heals at different rates depending on their health but it usually takes 7-10 days.

Type of suture used

A suture is the stitch used to hold the skin together while the wound heals.

We usually use a dissolvable stitch (Monocryl), placed just under the skin in a long running stitch. Monocryl is a man made fibre that is fully absorbed by 3-4 months after surgery. This means that you do not need to have any stitches removed.

Skin glue is applied on top of the stitch to help prevent bacteria from entering the wound. This glue looks like a dry crust on top of the wound.

Dressings

The main reason for using a wound dressing is to protect the wound from infection or injury. This helps the wound to heal by providing the best possible environment.

We use modern dressings (Aquacel Ag) which provide a viral and bacterial barrier that is comfortable and waterproof.

When should I change my dressing?

PLEASE wash your hands before changing your dressing and do not touch your wound. This reduces the risk of infection.

Your dressing should stay on for 7 days after the operation. After 7 days, you can remove the dressing. If the wound is dry and healing well, no further dressing is needed.

If the wound is wet or oozing, please apply the new dressing supplied by the ward. This new dressing can be left on for 3-5 days and then removed if the wound has healed well. **Any concerns, please contact Stafford Suite.**

Can I have a shower?

The dressing is waterproof therefore you are able to shower. Once you have removed the final dressing you can continue to shower but just allow the water to run off the wound. Do not use soap of any kind in this area.

You will notice some crusting on the wound; this is the glue we use and completely normal. Use a clean towel to gently dab this area and the glue will dissolve after a few days.

When should I contact the hospital?

If you notice any of the following, please contact the ward immediately:

- Increased redness or swelling around the wound
- Excessive discharge/bleeding from the wound
- Pus or yellow/green discharge from the wound
- Unpleasant smell coming from the wound

Need more information?

Contact us:

HR Orthopaedics Office: 0161 722 0007
(office hours)

Stafford Suite: 0161 495 7022 (24 hours)

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