



**RALPH A. MASSEY, M.D., F.A.A.D.**  
DERMATOLOGIC, MOHS MICROGRAPHIC & COSMETIC SURGERY



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## **WOUND CARE INSTRUCTIONS**

Discomfort after your surgery is usually minimal. If you do have some discomfort extra strength Tylenol / Acetaminophen, two (2) tablets every six (6) hours should help relieve any pain that you may have.

To lessen the discomfort, relieve swelling, and minimize bruising, an ice pack, or a bag of frozen peas, wrapped in a clean towel may be applied over the dressing for 10-15 minutes every hour. Elevation of the wound area is also helpful.

Please avoid smoking throughout the healing process.

Please avoid alcohol for two (2) days after your surgery.

Please try to refrain from exercise or any heavy chores, for one (1) week after your surgery.

A pressure dressing has been applied to your wound to prevent bleeding and minimize swelling. You may notice some blood on the edges of the dressing, this is normal. However, if active bleeding persists and soaks through the dressing, apply firm and constant pressure over the dressing with gauze for 15 minutes. If the bleeding still persists, remove the dressing and repeat the pressure with clean gauze for an additional 15 minutes. In rare instances when bleeding does not stop, call our office.

The area may remain numb and be mildly itchy. You may also experience periodic discomfort around the wound as part of the healing process.

The edges of the wound will be pink fading after several days. If the wound becomes red, tender, and swollen or begins to drain pus, call our office.

The first dressing change should begin the day after your surgery.

The day after your surgery, upon removing the initial dressing, you may shower and allow the wound to get wet. However, do not allow the forceful stream of water to hit the wound directly.

After you shower, apply a new dressing to your wound as described below.



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## **CHANGING THE DRESSING**

### **SUPPLIES**

- Hydrogen peroxide
- Q-tips
- Gauze pads
- Telfa dressing or other non-stick dressing
- Paper or plastic tape
- An unused / unopened tube of a bland ointment such as Vaseline or Aquaphor (or over the counter topical antibiotic ointment such as Polysporin or Bacitracin).

The first dressing change should begin the day after your surgery.

Gently remove the old dressing.

Apply hydrogen peroxide soaks and then a new dressing as described below.

### **HYROGEN PEROXIDE SOAKS AND DRESSING**

1. Soak a clean gauze with hydrogen peroxide then squeeze out the excess fluid so the gauze is wet but not dripping.
3. Apply the soaked gauze **directly** on the wound for 5 minutes then pat the area dry.
4. Apply ointment to wound by putting a small amount on a Q-tip and spreading it around the wound to make a complete covering.
5. Apply a none-stick / none adherent dressing such as "Telfa and tape it in place.
6. Follow this procedure **twice** each day.

REMEMBER: Do not let the wound dry out. Keep it covered with antibiotic ointment.