



POST OPERATIVE MOHS WOUND CARE

1. Leave the original dressing on for 24 hours. **DO NOT** get it wet. After 24 hours you may remove the dressing.
2. If steri strips are applied to site (paper sutures over top of your stitches), then no further treatment is needed. If steri strips fall off during the time your sutures are in place, use the wound care instructions provided below.
3. Cleanse the wound thoroughly with a Q-tip and diluted hydrogen peroxide (mix equal parts tap water and hydrogen peroxide) or gentle antibacterial soap.
4. Apply antibiotic ointment (polysporin / bacitracin / or the prescription antibiotic ointment given to you on your surgery day, **NOT NEOSPORIN**) to cover the wound.
5. Cover the wound with a nonstick bandage such as telfa and secure with tape. For small areas a hand-aid may be used.
6. Do the above procedure once or twice a day or as directed by your provider. Keeping wounds moist results in better healing of wound (Do not let it "air out").
7. You may take Tylenol or Extra Strength Tylenol (unless allergic or not permitted by your regular doctor) as needed per label instructions for minor pain. If the pain is unrelieved please call the office for instructions.
8. **Bleeding:** Some minimal bleeding is normal. Significant bleeding occurs when the bandage suddenly becomes soaked with bright red blood and flows profusely. It may also appear as swelling at the surgical site that continues to increase in size. If this should happen to you, sit or lie down with your head slightly elevated. Apply continuous pressure with gauze directly on the wound for 30 minutes. After 30 minutes of pressure, release your hand. If the bleeding or swelling has stopped, gently clean around the wound, but **DO NOT** remove the pressure bandage. If the bleeding or swelling does not stop or you cannot seem to control it, call immediately. If the Doctor or Nurse cannot be reached at the numbers below, have someone take you to the nearest emergency room while you are holding continuous pressure to the site.
9. **Infection:** Signs of infection include redness, swelling, odor, warmth and pain surrounding the surgical site, fever, or yellow / green drainage from the wound. If you suspect you have an infection please call the office. **There is always someone on call.**
10. **Braising / Swelling:** If your surgical site is on the forehead, around the eye or near the eyebrows it is possible to experience swelling and even "Black Eyes". Do not be alarmed - this is normal. If the swelling / braising is accompanied by extreme pain or bleeding or warmth, call the office in which you had the procedure at the number listed below. **Again, there is always someone on call.**

Remember: Almost all skin cancer (95%) is caused by past sun exposure. Now that you have had skin cancer, you have a 1 in 4 chance of getting another skin cancer within 2 years. The best way to protect your skin from further sun damage is to consistently apply a sunscreen with a SPF of 30 or higher every morning to your sun exposed areas. This sunscreen should protect against UVA and UVB rays. Women may apply it under their make-up and men after they shave.

Remember: Smoking slows wound healing and may result in a more prominent scar. Please consider stopping or minimizing your smoking during the course of your wound healing.

A healthcare provider is always on call. Should you experience any of the above abnormal symptoms call the office in which you had the procedure or another office listed below and you will be transferred to our on call service and a healthcare provider from Water's Edge Dermatology who can answer your questions and offer guidance. Also many offices are open on Saturday mornings. Please call them to help avoid a visit to the emergency room.

Clewiston
863-805-8038

West Palm Beach
561-296-7718

Delray Beach
561-921-2221

Lighthouse Point
954-960-8880

Sebastian
772-388-3551

Palm Beach Gardens
561-694-9493

Okeechobee
863-467-6767

Port St. Lucie
772-335-3550

Sebring
863-314-4487

Lake Worth
561-578-8100

Palm West
561-296-9666

Stuart
772-219-2777

FL. Pierce
772-895-5995

Palm Bay
321-228-6400

St. Lucie West
772-871-1682