



HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR INCISION

Your doctor has stitched your incision to speed healing. You can help your incision heal faster by taking good care of it.

BANDAGE CARE

Your bandage should be removed the day after surgery. Your doctor may ask you to replace your bandage each day. Most wounds do not require a bandage after a few days, but you may decide to wear a bandage to protect the incision.

WATCHING FOR INFECTION

The edges of a healing incision may be slightly red. Redness is normal, however, call your doctor if the redness is increasing or if it spreads more than half an inch from the wound. Call your doctor if you see pus in the incision or if the incision is more than mildly tender or painful.

BLEEDING

If your bandage becomes bloody, replace it with dry gauze or another bandage. Applying pressure directly to the incision for a few minutes stops most bleeding. If the wound keeps bleeding after you apply pressure, call your doctor.

BATHING

Keep your incision clean and dry for the first 24 hours. Avoid showering or bathing the first day. Try taking a sponge bath instead. You may wash with soap and water by the second day. Take a shower instead of a bath if you have stitches or skin tape on your incision. Gently, towel dry the incision after washing.