

MOHS Post- Operative Care (Wound Care)

The importance of postoperative care to your surgical site cannot be over stressed. The care you take of yourself and your surgical wound is extremely important to the success of the procedure and to your recovery and well-being. There are several things that could happen following surgery:

1. **Bleeding:** bleeding can occur following surgery. To reduce the possibility of bleeding, the following instructions are given:
 - a. Limit activities for at least 24 hours.
 - b. Keep the operative site elevated.
 - c. If surgery was on the face, head or neck:
 - I. Avoid stooping or bending
 - II. Avoid straining to have a bowel movement
 - III. Sleep with your head and shoulder elevated on extra pillows

Should bleeding occur, apply firm constant pressure on the bandages for 20 minutes. This will usually stop minor bleeding.

2. **Swelling:** swelling occurs because surgery has caused a wound and your body reacts to that injury. To reduce the amount swelling that may occur:
 - a. Apply an ice bag for 10 minutes each hour during the waking hours. If you do not have an ice bag, a baggy filled with cracked ice and wrapped with a thin towel will do nicely.
 - b. Keep your bandage dry.
3. **Pain:** Pain, postoperative, is generally slight. In nearly all cases, Extra Strength Tylenol will receive any pain you may experience.
4. **Infections:** Infection seldom occurs when the wound care instructions have been carefully followed.

Wound Care One-Two Times Each Day

1. Wash your hands with soap and water.
2. Apply soap and water to suture line with cotton ball or Q-Tip.
3. Dry wound thoroughly with clean soft cloth by blotting.
4. Apply thin layer of BIAFINE OR STRATAMED with Q-Tip.
5. Cover with clean dry dressing.

Signs of Infection are: Increased pain, swelling, redness or yellowish drainage several days after surgery.

There will be a scar and redness after surgery. This will decrease as healing progresses but redness should be expected as long as six months. Everyone heals differently and the final scar appearance depends on the individual's ability to heal. In other words, some scars heal and can hardly be seen while others become thick and/ or tender. Because of the unpredictability in wound healing, the final appearance cannot be preoperatively ascertained; therefore, no guarantees can be implied or stated as to the final appearance of the scars.

Special Instructions:

1. Limit activities for at least 24 hours
2. Keep head or surgery site elevated
3. If bleeding occurs, apply constant, firm pressure: call if bleeding does not stop.
4. Apply ice bags for 10 minutes of each hour during waking hours on operative days.
5. Take Extra Strength Tylenol if pain is present.
6. Follow instructions for wound care.
7. Notify our office immediately should bleeding that will not stop or signs of infection occur at (818)-592-6005.