

DR. LINCOSKI'S POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS: SKIN GRAFT WOUND CARE

You will need to care for both the flap or graft site as well as the donor site. When you come home after surgery, you will have a dressing on your wounds. The dressing does several things, including

- Protect your wound from germs and reduce the risk of infection
- Protect the area as it heals
- Soak up any fluids that leak from your wound

RECIPIENT SITE (WHERE THE SKIN GRAFT WAS APPLIED)

At the time of your surgery, Dr. Lincoski may apply a dressing called a bolster and possibly a splint. This dressing should remain in place until follow-up visit in the office about 5-7 days after your surgery. You will also have visit with therapy to discuss wound care and exercises.

- After the initial dressing is removed, you may wash the skin graft gently with soap and water twice a day. You may wash the wound in the shower. Avoid having the shower water hitting the skin graft directly. The water may run over the skin graft.
- Dry the wound with surgical gauze. Apply a light layer of bacitracin or neosporin to the skin graft. Cover with Adaptic (non stick dressing) and a light gauze.
- Do not submerge the graft or donor site in the tub or any body of water such as a swimming pool, hot tub, and dirty dishwasher.
- Sutures that are in place are dissolvable.
- Keep skin graft out of sun.

DONOR SITE (WHERE THE SKIN GRAFT WAS TAKEN FROM)

- Remove the postoperative dressing at the end of the first week after surgery. You may notice paper surgical tape (steri-strips) on the incision. Leave the steri-strips on until they fall off
- Wash the wound gently with soap and water. You may wash the wound in the shower gently.
- Peel the steri-strips off if they are still on by the end of the second week after surgery.