



## **MOHS POST OPERATIVE INSTRUCTION**

We will place a dressing on your wound after surgery. Keep this dressing clean and dry for 2 days.

If bleeding occurs, hold firm pressure over the bandage with an ice pack for 15 minutes without stopping. If bleeding continues, repeat this pressure for 15 minutes. If the wound is still bleeding, please call us immediately!

To reduce swelling, place an ice pack over the bandage for 20 minutes every 2 hours for the first 24 hours. Whenever possible, keep the area elevated. For sites on the head and neck, try sleeping with extra pillows.

### **MEDICATIONS**

If you experience pain after surgery, take Tylenol. The maximum dose is 2 pills every 4-6 hours. Do not take any other over-the-counter pain killers as these may cause bleeding.

If you have stopped any blood thinners prior to surgery, you may restart these in 2 days.

Avoid exercising and other heavy lifting while your sutures are in to avoid breaking the sutures and reopening your wound.

### **DRESSING CHANGES**

Items you may need:

1. Vaseline, bacitracin, or Aquaphor ointment
2. Kendall Telfa (or similar) nonstick bandage
3. Non-allergic paper tape
4. Hydrogen peroxide
5. Ace bandage (for arms or legs)

Beginning in 2 days, change your dressing twice a day

1. Remove the old dressing. This may be easiest to do in the shower.
2. Clean the area with hydrogen peroxide. If you have a wound not completely closed by sutures, use soap and water, avoiding the use of hydrogen peroxide.
3. Apply a generous amount of ointment directly to the wound.
4. Cut a piece of telfa (nonstick dressing) slightly larger than the wound. Apply telfa over the ointment. Hold it in place with gauze and paper tape.
5. If you have sutures that dissolve and do not need to be removed by the office, follow the above instructions for 1 week. After that, it is only necessary to place ointment over the sutures until they are completely dissolved.

### **CALL US IF (610-566-7300)**

1. Bleeding that you cannot stop occurs
2. You notice rapid swelling of the surgical area
3. You experience a significant amount of pain not relieved by Tylenol
4. You develop a fever
5. You have other questions or concerns about your wound

**REMEMBER greasy, covered wounds heal more quickly and with less scarring. Keep your wound covered with ointment and a dressing at all times. Never let the area dry out or scab.**