

**Moeller Dermatology
1911 N. Webb Rd.
Wichita, KS 67206
(316) 682-7546**

Mohs Postoperative Wound Care Instructions

- Keep initial dressing dry and in place (do not remove) for 24 hours.
 - Optional: To reduce swelling or pain you may apply ice packs to the general area for the next 24-48 hours. A good way to do this is to wet a washcloth, fold it into half and then into thirds and place into a plastic freezer bag, which is then placed into the freezer. This will help to conform to the area. You will need to do 3-4 of these bags in order to always have one available. Do this 3-4 times a day for 10-15 min.
- If bleeding should start, hold firm & continuous pressure over area for 15 minutes without removing the bandage. If bleeding persists after 15 minutes of constant pressure, contact our office.
- Depending upon the location and nature of your surgery, there may be activity restrictions which will be specified at the time of surgery. In general, avoid exercising, heavy lifting, stooping or bending. Sleep on 2-3 pillows on the unaffected side to minimize swelling and bruising.
- Elevate surgical site above the level of the heart as often as possible to minimize swelling, bleeding, pain and to improve healing. If the surgery site is on the face or head elevate the head.

Pain Management- to help control postoperative pain you can

- **Take Tylenol (Acetaminophen) Extra Strength** (500 mg): 1 tablet by mouth every 4-6 hours, not to exceed 6 tablets in 24 hours.

OR

- **Take Tylenol (Acetaminophen) Regular Strength** (325 mg): 2 tablets by mouth every 4-6 hours, not to exceed 10 tablets in 24 hours.

AND (can be taken along with Tylenol (acetaminophen) either strength)

- **Ibuprofen*** 400 mg by mouth 3 times a day
*Avoid ibuprofen if you have cirrhosis of the liver, if you take a blood thinner or if have had an allergic reaction to it.
- **Rest**
- **Elevate** the surgical site above the level of the heart.
 - If the surgery site is on the face or head elevate the head.
- **Ice** the area for 10-20 minutes, every 1-4 hours while awake.

Daily Wound Care

- Change the dressing daily using the following steps (the first time you will change your dressing will be the day following your Mohs surgery):
- Wash hands or wear gloves before each dressing change.
- We recommend that you take a shower with the old dressing in place so it is easier to remove.
- After removing the bandage: Wash area gently with gauze using soap and water. Cotton swabs may also be used. Soak the cotton swab with water then gently roll the cotton swab across the surgical area to remove any dried blood or crust.
- Blot dry with gauze.
- Apply a generous layer of petroleum jelly, Polysporin, _____ to the incision site to keep the wound moist for optimum healing.
- Cover loosely with a dry sterile telfa pad or band-aid large enough to cover the wound.

What you should expect after your surgery

- Swelling, bruising, mild bleeding and pain. All of these items are normal.

What you should watch for after your surgery

- Sudden or excessive pain
- Wound becoming progressively red, warm and painful
- Development of a fever of 101 degrees or greater
- Persistent bleeding
- Extreme swelling
- The wound opening up

If any of these things occur, contact our office immediately at 316-682-7546 or 800-259-3591, 24 hours a day, 7 days per week

If you have any questions or concerns, please call our office at 316-682-7546.