

Skin Graft Care

Skin grafts should be kept dry for 7 days after surgery. A small amount of intermittent water is not a problem, but a steady stream, such as a shower or bath is not appropriate and will cause the graft to separate from the wound.

Skin grafts will become discolored and develop a black crust over 5-7 days. This crust will gradually separate from the healthy skin underneath to leave a pink colored graft during the interim phase of healing.

Gently cleanse the graft with warm, soapy water and apply Vaseline to the graft twice a day. A bandage over the wound is not necessary. The more air the graft gets, the better. Swelling occurs after surgery to reduce the amount of swelling, apply an ice pack to the wound for 20 minutes per hour.

Bleeding may occur following surgery. To reduce the possibility of bleeding, restrict activities today and spend most of the day resting. Avoid stooping, bending, heavy lifting and exercising until sutures are removed. Any bleeding after surgery can be controlled with firm pressure. If the wound is extremely red, swollen, inflamed or bleeds excessively please call our office.

Acetaminophen and Tylenol may be used for pain. No Aspirin, Aleve, Motrin, Naproxen should be taken as they thin the blood.

Swimming is not recommended for at least 2 weeks after your procedure. You should not do any strenuous workouts for 2 weeks following a skin graft.