

Braddock Finnegan Helget Dermatology, P.C.

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Care of Unstured Surgical Sites

Your unstured surgical site will be covered with an absorbent bandage when you leave the office. Leave this initial dressing in place until the next morning. At this time begin wound care daily. The wound should not freely bleed, although some pinpoint bleeding is acceptable. Soap and water will be sufficient for cleaning. After you clean the wound, apply a thin film of Vaseline, and cover the wound with a Band-Aid or other non-stick dressing. Most wounds ooze a small amount of serum for the first several days, and the dressing absorbs this. It is usually sufficient to change dressings daily. Unstured surgical wounds heal faster when covered. The healing surface should not be allowed to become dry. You should not allow a scab to form since this slows healing dramatically.

It is okay to shower or otherwise get the wound wet briefly, as long as you clean the wound afterwards.

Infection is very rare in unstured wounds. Signs of infection include pain, warmth, and increasing redness. Some redness is normal. However, if you suspect your wound is infected, please call us.

The wound should not have any (or very minimal) odor and should not drain or bleed after approximately one week.

With regular care as described above, you can anticipate that shallow wounds such as a biopsy site will be covered with new skin within a week or so, although deeper wounds will take considerably longer.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in your skin care. Please contact us if we can provide any further information or answer any questions prior to your next appointment.