



**Housel  
Dermatology, P.C.**

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### **Skin Graft Care**

1. Remove the white dressing (tape and gauze) in 24hrs. You will expose a brown dressing that you will leave in place until your suture removal appointment.
2. Keep the bandage dry, Do not get it wet. You can gently wash around the dressing.

#### **ONLY FOR DRESSINGS THAT HAVE BECOME SATURATED:**

If the dressing becomes loose, reinforce the dressing with more gauze and tape.

If the dressing has become soiled with blood or drainage, you may remove the top dressing only (white tape and gauze). You need to leave the yellow gauze in place as it is sutured in place. Reapply polysporin/bacitracin or vaseline along with a new dressing. (**Do not** use Neosporin or triple antibiotic)

1. Take extra strength tylenol as needed for discomfort. Do not take aspirin or over the counter products containing aspirin unless advised by a physician
2. Apply an ice pack over the dressing of surgical site for 20 minutes out of an hour, two to three times a day for the next 3 days as needed to help decrease the pain, swelling or bruising that may occur.
3. Elevate the area as much as possible. Use an extra pillow if laying down
4. No strenuous activity until advised otherwise by the MOHS surgeon
5. Continue taking all prescribed medications
6. Do not drink alcoholic beverages for 72 hours or smoke for 3 weeks post surgery as they will inhibit the healing process

#### **POST OP EXPECTATIONS:**

Expect significant bruising, swelling and tenderness of the surgical site and surrounding tissue. It is not uncommon to have swelling around the eyes 2 days after procedures done on the forehead and scalp.

Numbness, itching, and sensitivity can occur after surgery and it can take up to 18 months to normalize.

#### **POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:**

##### **BLEEDING:**

1. Leave the bandage in place and use rolled up gauze or a clean cloth to apply firm, direct pressure over the surgical site for 20 minutes without looking at it
2. Reapply pressure for an additional 20 minutes if necessary followed by 20 minutes of ice
3. Call the on-call physician at the number below if the pressure and ice fails to stop the bleeding
4. Use additional gauze and tape to reinforce bandage once the bleeding has stopped

##### **PAIN:**

1. Severe increase in pain may indicate a problem, please call the office if this occurs

**In Case of an EMERGENCY please call our office immediately at (315) 452-3376, Press option #1 to reach the on-call provider.**

**ANTIBIOTIC: \_\_\_\_\_ Take one by mouth once every 12 hours for 7 days**

**SUTURE REMOVAL \_\_\_\_\_**