



## **BIOPSY and SURGERY SITE CARE**

\*Keep the initial dressing/bandaid in place and DRY for 24 HOURS. You may shower/bathe after 24 hours and proceed with the first dressing change as described below. Change the dressing once or twice a day using the following method until the wound has completely healed.

1. After 24 hours, remove the dressing and clean the wound once or twice per day as instructed below. You may shower or bathe after 24 hours.
3. Wash the affected area gently mainly with plain water and dry the area. (Can sometimes use some mild soap as well.)
5. If no steri-strips are over wound, apply plain petroleum jelly (Vaseline) to the affected area twice per day. Do not use Neosporin ointment or Aquaphor.
6. Then apply a clean bandage. If Band-Aids irritate your skin, use paper tape and gauze dressing instead.
7. Please continue this routine until the stitches are removed. If your wound does not have stitches, follow this routine for 7 days, or as indicated by your physician.
8. If you have pain at the wound site, you may take acetaminophen (Tylenol).
9. If the lesion was submitted for biopsy, we will call with results in 7-10 days. If after 2 weeks you have not heard from us, then please call our office (847-499-5500).
10. Avoid swimming pools or hot tubs until the wound is completely healed. If swimming is unavoidable, use a Nexcare Waterproof bandage (available at most drug stores).

### **If Steri-Strips were applied over your wound:**

#### **Steri-Strip Care**

-Steri-strips gently keep a wound together, and can be used instead of stitches, with stitches, or after stitches are removed. They stay in place for a few days or up to two weeks.

-If your steri-strips were applied over stitches, try to keep them in place until your stitches are removed. If your steri-strips were applied after stitches were removed, wearing steri-strips for just a few days can be sufficient to give the wound extra time to heal. Of course, the longer steri-strips are in place, the better.

-You may wash/shower gently with steri-strips in place and pat dry.

-If edges of steri-strips lift up, gently cut these edges off.

-Do not apply petroleum jelly, antibiotic ointment, or lotion to area as will loosen strips.

-When steri-strips peel off on their own or after they are purposely removed, return to typical wound/scar care (above) including applying petroleum jelly (Vaseline).

-To remove steri-strips, peel off gently. Baby oil or medical adhesive remover can be used to remove any residual adhesive on the skin.