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CARE OF THE SURGICAL WOUND WITH STITCHES

1. The first dressing should be changed after 24 hours. After 24 hours change it every day.
2. Do the following daily until your next appointment to remove the stitches:
 - remove bandage
 - clean the surgical area with either soap and water or half strength hydrogen peroxide mixed with water and a Q-tip to remove any crust.
 - apply an antibiotic ointment such as Bacitracin or Polysporin. This is over the counter and available without a prescription. In certain instances, your doctor may recommend Neosporin. You may also be given a prescription for Bactroban or Mupirocin cream.
 - apply ice for ten minutes x three hours as needed to reduce swelling and pain.
3. Check the wound for swelling, bleeding or redness. If bleeding occurs, apply pressure for 20 minutes. If it persists, call the office. If the wound appears infected because of increasing redness, warmth, tenderness, pain or yellow discharge or foul smell, call the office at (212) 962-1115.
4. You may shower the day after the surgery in your usual fashion. Please remove the bandage before showering. It is okay to clean the area with soap and water and pat dry and then apply a clean bandage. We do not recommend taking a bath and soaking the wound in a tub.
5. Do not pick or scratch the wound. Pain is not common and usually can be relieved by taking Tylenol.
6. Avoid aspirin or similar agents for at least 48 hours after the surgery.
7. A small amount of blood around the surgical site is normal. If there is bleeding, apply pressure as directed with an ice pack or call the office. Mild redness around the surgical site or stitches area is normal. If it becomes vividly red and painful or has a discharge, please call our office and speak to a doctor or a nurse.

Please do not hesitate to contact us whenever you have any questions or concerns:

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