

Lacerations (Cuts)

How to take care of the cut?

1. Keep the site dry. Remove bandage in _____ days.
2. Cleanse area gently twice a day with fresh water and mild soap. Do not use harsh cleansers. Ensure area is dry between cleanses.
3. Once dry, cover wound with an antibiotic ointment (example Polysporin®) and a dry dressing.



- If the dressing becomes wet or dirty, remove and replace with a clean dressing following the steps above.
- Although some redness, swelling and pain is expected. Observe at least daily for signs of infection including:
 - Increase in pain, swelling, and/or redness
 - Area feels warm to the touch
 - Pus or discharge from the wound
 - Red streaks present on arm or leg
 - Fever (temperature >38°C)

Stitches or Staples

1. Follow laceration instructions above
2. Your stitches/staples should be removed by a doctor in _____ days.
3. Please call your family doctor to make an appointment
4. If you received staples, you should also receive a staple remover. Bring it with you to your scheduled appointment with your doctor.

These instructions are not intended to be all-inclusive, and may not cover all possibilities. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your doctor, Telehealth Ontario (866)797-0000, or return to the emergency department.

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Glue

1. If the doctor used glue (Dermabond®) to adhere the wound edges together, it forms an immediate and lasting waterproof dressing and does not require daily cleansing.
2. The wound should remain dry and covered with a bandage so the glue is not rubbed off too soon.
3. The glue will naturally fall off in 3-5 days, after which time you should follow the lacerations instructions above.

Steristrips®

1. Adhesive strips have been used to close the wound and act as a bandage.
2. The area should remain dry.
3. Do not remove on your own, unless instructed to do so by your doctor. The Steristrips® will gradually fall off as the wound heals.
4. Once the Steristrips® are no longer in place follow the lacerations instructions above.

Call your family doctor or return to emergency department if:

- Signs of infection are present
- The wound reopens
- Bleeding remains uncontrolled when pressure is applied



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