



BOULDER PLASTIC SURGERY Prof., L.L.C.

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***PATIENT INFORMATION FOR ROUTINE CARE OF OPEN WOUNDS
(THOSE WHICH HEAL WITH A SCAB)***

1. No bandages are necessary over the wounds. If the wound is draining slightly, to avoid contact with your clothes, a light bandage may be utilized at your discretion. If you desire to cover the wound while in public, a bandage again may be used at your discretion.
2. Apply a very small amount of bacitracin ointment to the wound twice a day, or as often as necessary to keep wound moist, until the wound has healed (7-10 days). This keeps the scab from becoming brittle and cracking.
3. Avoid swimming, soaking in the bathtub or hot tubs until the wound is healed and the scabs are gone. The chlorine in pools and hot tubs is caustic and will cause poor healing and scarring. Also, chance for infection is greatly increased. You may wash over any wounds with normal soap and water and towel dry 24 hours after surgery. Allowing a wound to be wet causes no side affects as long as the wound is not immersed in water.
4. Once the wound is healed (when scab is gone), any satisfactory sun blocking agent with the rating of 15 to 20 may be applied directly over the scar to help reduce the ultra-violet exposure. Sun exposure should be avoided as much as possible over maturing scars. The ultra-violet rays of the sun will increase the redness in the scar and will make the redness persist for a much longer period of time. The wounds should be covered with a sun block for at least one year following surgery. Dr. Kuisle or Dr. Hartley can recommend satisfactory sun screens if you desire.
5. Signs of infection in the wound usually appear three or more days following surgery, but may appear earlier. These include; a significant increase in redness surrounding the wound, increase of the discomfort in the wound, possible yellowish colored or abnormal amounts of drainage from the wound. Should any of these occur, contact the office immediately at 303.443.2277.
6. If you have any additional questions, or should problems arise, please contact the office at 303.443.2277.