

Orthopedic Hardware Removal: Wound Care at Home

After surgery it is important to do wound care at home. This helps keep the wound from becoming infected and helps it to heal.

Special directions

- Leave the first dressing (bandage) in place for the first 3 days after surgery. After the third day, the dressing should be changed every day.
- Check the dressing for drainage every day. Always check the wound carefully for redness or drainage when you change the dressing.
- Keep the dressing clean and dry. If the dressing gets wet, dirty, or loose, it should be changed. Follow these steps to change the dressing:
 1. Wash your hands with soap and water.
 2. Take off the old dressing.
 3. Check the wound for drainage.
 4. Wash your hands again with soap and water.
 5. Cover the wound with a clean gauze and tape.
- Keep the wound covered until the old gauze is completely dry. When there is no more drainage, you may leave steri-strips open to air.
- Do not get the wound wet from a bath or shower until the doctor has seen your child. Your child's doctor will tell you when it is OK for your child to have a bath or shower.



ALERT: Call your child's doctor, nurse, or clinic if you have any questions or concerns or if your child has:

- A temperature of _____ or above.
- Any new drainage on the dressing.
- A red, swollen, or painful wound.
- Wound edges that are opening.
- Special health care needs that were not covered by this information.

This teaching sheet is meant to help you care for your child. It does not take the place of medical care. Talk with your healthcare provider for diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up.