

Care of a Wound After Suturing

1. Keep area surrounding wound **clean and dry**.

Keep the wound covered with a clean dressing until all the sutures are removed.

Change the dressing only if it is soiled or wet.

Wear rubber gloves to work with.

When bathing, wear rubber gloves, or affix a plastic bag to cover the wound.

Once the dressing has become soiled, remove it and return to the hospital or to your family doctor.

2. Watch for signs of **Infection**.

If the wound and skin around the wound becomes **hot, red, swollen**, or **tender**, or if you notice any **green** or **yellow pus** like **discharge**, return to the clinic or to your doctor immediately.

3. Keep wounded area **elevated**.

If the wound begins to throb or bleed profusely, keep the area elevated above your head to slow the blood flow.

You have _____ sutures in your _____.

Return to the hospital, or see your family doctor on _____ to have the sutures removed.

If you have any other concerns regarding your injury, or wish to have the dressing changed, you may do so at your family doctor, or you may return to the hospital.