

WOUND MANAGEMENT

The goal of wound management is primarily restoration of function, which requires minimizing the risk of infection and repair of injured tissue with minimal cosmetic deformity.

Wound Healing

Collagen formation peaks at day 7. The wound has 15% to 20% of full strength at 3 weeks and 60% of full strength at 4 months. Epithelialization occurs in 48 hours under optimal conditions. The wound is then completely sealed.

Scar formation requires 6 to 12 months for a mature scar. The smallest scar will be formed when the wound is not under tension. Scars should not be revised until scar as matured.

General Guidelines for Wound Care Instructions

- Xeroform Dressing Changes
 - Apply a liberal layer of antibiotic ointment to affected area
 - Apply a single layer of xerform. Do not double layer it!
 - Wrap with Kerlix roll and coban

- Silvadene Dressing Changes
 - Apply a liberal layer of silvadene cream to the affected area
 - Cover with gauze
 - Wrap with Kerlix and Coban or Ace wrap
 - Wound should be cleaned completely out with soap and water twice daily before new silvadene application.

- Regranex Dressing Changes (this should be refrigerated)
 - Using an application aid (cotton swab or tongue depressor) apply enough gel to cover the surface of the wound in a very thin layer-excess is wasteful.
 - Dress the wound as instructed by your doctor using plain saline moistened gauze.
 - Remove dressing after 12 hours and rinse with saline solution or water

- Accuzyme Dressing Changes
 - At each redressing remove old wound dressing and flush with lukewarm saline solution or a mild cleansing solution to remove any accumulation of liquefied dead tissue.
 - Pat the area dry with clean gauze or a clean towel.
 - Apply a generous layer of Accuzyme Ointment directly to the wound surface and cover with appropriate dressing. Make sure the dressing is not too tight.
 - Application once or twice daily is preferred.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

General Guidelines for Suture Removal:

Face – Remove at 4 to 6 days post operation with tape or glue reinforcement

Scalp – 10 days

Trunk – 10 to 14 days

Hands & Arms – 10 to 16 days

Legs – 10 to 14 days

Joints Surface – 14-21 days

* Facial wounds should have crust soaked off and bacitracin or other antibiotic ointment applied four times a day for 5 days to reduce scar formation