

Caring for a Wound from a Biopsy or Surgery In the Dermatology Clinic

Your child's stitches should be taken out in _____ days. To have stitches taken out, call:

- Dermatology Clinic Your child's primary care

How to care for your child's wound at home

- Keep the dressing on for about 24 hours. Keep it clean and dry. If the bandage becomes soaked with blood, it is OK to change it.
- If you notice a small amount of bleeding, put a clean dressing or cloth over the area and apply firm pressure for 10 to 15 minutes. If the bleeding becomes heavier or does not stop, call the hospital main line at 206-987-2000 and ask the operator to page the dermatologist on call.
- After you take off the bandages, gently clean the area with soapy water. Your child should avoid swimming or soaking the area in a bathtub while the stitches are in place or until the wound has healed.
- If Steri-Strips (small pieces of adhesive used to help keep the wound closed) have been placed on the site, do not take them off. They will fall off on their own.
- Put a small amount of antibiotic ointment (like Bacitracin or Polypsorin) or plain petroleum jelly (like Vaseline) on the wound 2 times each day. Then cover the site with a Band-Aid or other clean bandage. Do this 2 times each day until the stitches are taken out.
- If your child has any pain or discomfort after the local anesthetic wears off, it is OK to give acetaminophen (Tylenol). Use this medicine only if recommended by your child's healthcare provider. Check with the healthcare provider first before giving any type of medicine to your child. Follow the instructions on the package about how much to give. Avoid aspirin or ibuprofen (like Motrin or Advil), since these can increase the risk of bleeding.

Activity: Your child should not take part in sports, gym, rough play or swimming at least until their stitches are taken out.

Infection: Watch for signs of infection, such as if the wound is swollen, tender, red or draining pus. If you think that the wound may be infected, call the Dermatology clinic where your child was seen during business hours. During evenings and weekends, call 206-987-2000 and ask the operator to page the dermatologist on call.

When do I get the Results?

Your child's provider has sent the skin biopsy to the laboratory. The results should be ready within about 2 weeks. We will call you with the results or talk with you about them at your child's next appointment.

To Learn More

- Dermatology Seattle and Bellevue
206-987-2158
- Everett 206-783-6200
- Federal Way 253-838-5878
- Ask your child's healthcare provider
- seattlechildrens.org

Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line, 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.



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Seattle Children's offers interpreter services for Deaf, hard of hearing or non-English speaking patients, family members and legal representatives free of charge. Seattle Children's will make this information available in alternate formats upon request. Call the Family Resource Center at 206-987-2201. This handout has been reviewed by clinical staff at Seattle Children's. However, your child's needs are unique. Before you act or rely upon this information, please talk with your child's healthcare provider.

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