Wound Care After a Biopsy or Electrodesiccation and Curettage Procedure

Wound care is done to clean the wound, prevent infection and prevent a scab from forming. Follow these instructions to help your wound to heal better.

When to do the Wound Care

- Keep the original dressing in place for 24 hours.
- Remove the old dressing before you take a bath or shower.

Clean the wound once a day as follows:

1. Allow water and soap from the shower to wash over the wound for 2 minutes.
2. Dry the wound with a clean cotton-tipped swab (Q-tip) or gauze.
3. Use a clean Q-tip to apply a thick layer of Vaseline or ointment over the wound. Use the type of ointment your doctor recommends.
4. Cover the wound with a bandage. You may use a Band-Aid or Telfa pad and tape. If you do not want to use a band-aid, keep the wound covered with the ointment or Vaseline until the area heals over.

Pain

You may take Tylenol (acetaminophen) or extra-strength Tylenol every 4 to 6 hours as needed for pain and discomfort. Follow the directions on the package. If you are not able to take Tylenol, ask your doctor what medicine to take for pain.
When to call the doctor

Call your doctor if you have any of the following:

- Increased redness
- Swelling
- Pain gets worse or not relieved by your pain medicine
- Pus-like drainage from the wound
- Fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) or higher
- Bleeding that does not stop after holding firm pressure for 20 minutes

How to reach the OSU Dermatology Department

- Call The OSU Dermatology Department at (614) 293-0404 for problems Monday through Friday during normal business hours.
- For urgent problems in the evenings or after hours, call the hospital operator at (614) 293-8000 and ask for the Dermatologist on call.
- If you do not get a report of your skin biopsy either by mail or by phone within 3 weeks after your biopsy, call the dermatology office at (614) 293-0404.