

SKIN GRAFT POST OP CARE

You have had a skin graft to repair the site where we worked on your skin cancer today. There is a dressing that is sutured to the skin, which is called a bolster dressing. When you do the wound care at this area, please do not attempt to remove the bolster dressing. Just change the gauze on the outside to remove any drainage. We will remove the bolster on your return visit

FOR HAND AND FOREARM WOUNDS

We recommend that our patients obtain a sling. This can be purchased at any local pharmacy or you can make your own out of a large cloth dinner napkin. This will help to elevate your hand above your heart so that the swelling will go down towards your elbow rather than getting lodged in your fingers. You may take your hand and arm out of the sling if you need to do some activity that requires use of your hand and arm. The majority of our patients are more comfortable using a sling as it is helpful in reminding them to protect the wound site, and also aids in redirecting swelling tissue.

SKIN GRAFT WITH UNNA BOOT

You have a skin graft with an Unna boot on your leg that we used on the site where we removed your skin cancer today. As listed above, this bolster dressing is sutured to the skin and can't be seen because it is covered by the Unna boot which we applied to help control your leg swelling. You must keep this Unna boot dressing dry. Therefore, this should be covered with a plastic bag or cast shower protector when bathing. Before you return for your next visit to the office, you may remove the Unna boot approximately one hour before you arrive. It is best to bathe the leg at this time to remove any white residue that remains on your skin from the Unna boot. Do not remove the bolster dressing as mentioned above. We will remove that when you arrive. You can place some gauze onto the wet bolster dressing after bathing so as not to get any on your pants or skirt. Please wear clothing that is easy to lift well above the wound site so that if we need to reapply another dressing or Unna boot it will be easy to do.

XENOGRAFT WITH UNNA BOOT

You have had a biologic dressing (xenograft) placed on the site where we removed your skin cancer today. There is a taped bolster dressing that is wrapped around the leg and adhered to itself. It can not be seen at this time because it is covered by the Unna boot. We apply the Unna boot to help control your leg swelling. You must keep this Unna boot dressing dry. Before you return for your next visit, you may remove the Unna boot one hour before you arrive. It is best to bathe the leg at this time to remove any white residue that remains on your skin from the Unna boot. Do not remove the bolster dressing (as mentioned above). This can get wet on the morning of your return visit only. Place a dry cloth around the area so that it does not drip onto your clothing. We will remove the bolster when you arrive. Please wear clothing that is easy to lift, well above the wound site so that if we need to apply another dressing or Unna boot it will be easy to do. Also, it would be helpful if you wear loose fitting shoes as it may be necessary to re-apply the Unna boot. If for some reason, the bolster does fall off while showering, do not worry. Just apply plain gauze to that area and keep it in place with tape, and we will examine the site in the office.