PITTSBURGHSKIN
DERMATOLOGY | MOHS SURGERY

Cranberry
144 Emeryville Drive, Suite 230 & 300
Cranberry Township, PA 16066

Shadyside
5750 Centre Avenue, Suite 300
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Tel 412.206.2966 | Fax 412.914.3062
info@pittsburghskin.com

CARE FOR SKIN GRAFTS

For Questions:

- Monday to Friday between 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM please call the office at 412.206.2966
- Weekends & Evenings please contact your physician:

Graft Wound Care

1. Please leave your bandage in place and dry for 48 hours. You may shower as long as the bandage does not get wet.
2. After 48 hours, you may remove the entire bandage and cleanse surgical site with mild soap (such as dove or Cetaphil) and water. Blot dry.
3. The graft site (where skin cancer was treated) should be carefully covered with three layers: (1) Vaseline or Aquaphor (2) xeroform gauze – a gauze that has petroleum jelly in it (3) additional gauze and tape. The graft harvest site does not need to be covered.
4. Wash and change the bandage (as above) at least daily for at least 2 weeks. **It is important to keep the surgical site covered. The graft may look pink/purple but should not look dark or dry.**
5. We will either plan to see you back in person for a wound check in 2- 3 weeks or ask that you send us a follow up photo.

Additional Notes:

- Bleeding: If you have bleeding thru the bandage, please remove the bandage and apply direct, firm pressure for 20 minutes. If you have someone at home with you, it may help to lie down and ask them to help you hold pressure. If the bleeding does not stop, please call us.
- Pain Control: We recommend you take 500-1000 mg acetaminophen (1 or 2 Extra Strength Tylenol®), alternating with 400 mg of ibuprofen (Advil®, Motrin®) every three hours as needed. If this does not give you adequate pain relief, please contact us for advice. *Note: Do not take more than 6 Extra Strength Tylenol® (3,000 mg Total) or 2400 mg of ibuprofen in 24 hours.*
- Ice: You may apply ice to the side of the bandage to reduce pain, swelling, and bruising. Ice for 10-15 min, three to four times for the first 24 hours, if possible.
- Exercise: Please avoid heavy lifting and exercise for one week.
- Infection: Infection is uncommon but can develop in any wound. Signs of infection are increased pain, drainage, pus, warmth, redness, and swelling with or without a fever >101˚F. If these symptoms occur, please call the office for further instructions.