



DRESSING: There will be a pressure bandage covered with tape over your incision. You may gently remove it 24 hours after surgery unless otherwise instructed by your surgeon. It is important to keep your dressing dry until it is removed. Keep your wound covered with a bandage while outside, sleeping, and showering.

WOUND CARE: Once dressing is removed, clean incisions (visible sutures only) twice a day with a Q-tip soaked in a 50/50 solution of hydrogen peroxide and water. Do not over clean, discontinue cleaning after 3 days. **Do not try to pick off or remove scabs.** After cleaning, apply antibiotic ointment; re-apply as needed throughout the day to prevent incisions from getting dry. Continue using the ointment until sutures are removed. If irritation occurs, you may use Vaseline, petroleum jelly, or Aquaphor in place of antibiotic ointment. Following suture removal, it is important to remember that your incision is still healing. To prevent re-opening, do not rub, scratch, pull, or apply pressure to any of the surrounding skin. You may begin using scar gel as soon as all sutures have been removed. Do not apply makeup until incisions are fully healed, around 10-14 days. It is very important to protect your healing incision from the sun. For the first year after surgery, use a broad-spectrum SPF 30+ sunscreen containing zinc oxide.

***Forehead and cheek flaps** apply ointment to the surrounding base of the flap as well as the incision. *It is very important to keep the flap (blood supply) covered with ointment at all times; do not let it dry out. After applying ointment, cover the flap with a non-adherent gauze pad. Clean the running forehead/cheek sutures only as described above, DO NOT use hydrogen peroxide directly on the flap. *If a bolster has been placed on your ear, keep the edges of the bolster covered with a thin layer of ointment to prevent drying. **D&I** surgery will be scheduled 3 weeks after your initial surgery. You will have two new incisions that will require the same care as listed above under wound care.

***Skin grafts with bolster:** DO NOT use hydrogen peroxide. If a bolster is in place, keep antibiotic ointment on the graft and the edges of the bolster at all times. DO NOT get the graft wet.