

Suture Care Instructions

- Keep wound area dry for the first 24 to 48 hours. After 2 days, you may leave the sutures uncovered.
- Apply antibiotic ointment sparingly (e.g. Polysporin) and a clean Band-Aid or dressing if the area gets accidentally dirty or wet.
- Gently clean sutures daily with mild soap and water and pat dry.
- You may shower quickly if your provider allows but do not take a bath until the skin is healed. Try to prevent the stitches from getting wet as much as possible even during a shower.
- NEVER leave a wet or sweaty dressing or Band-Aid on your stitches as this allows bacteria to reach the area and may cause infection.

Watch for signs of infection:

- Increasing redness, pain, or warmth around the suture site
- Increased swelling around the site
- Discharge or a foul odor from sutures or wound
- Fever

If you develop any of the above signs or symptoms of infection, please seek medical care right away.

Suture Removal usually depends on the healing process of the wound and as per your doctor's recommendation. Generally though stitches are usually removed:

- from the eyelids in 3 days; the face in 3 to 5 days;
- the torso in 7 to 10 days; the hands and feet in 7 to 10 days,
- and scalp 7 days.

You can return to Oak Ridges Medical And Urgent Care Centre to have your sutures removed.