



Incision Care

Before you leave the hospital, you should be able to answer these questions:

1. How do I care for my child's incision?

- The incision is covered by steri-strips or surgical glue. The stitches are under the skin and will not have to be removed. They will dissolve (melt) in 6 - 12 weeks. If the steri-strips have not fallen off in 10 - 14 days, you may remove them.
- Bathing: Two days after surgery, your child may shower or have a shallow bath. Pat the incision dry if it gets wet. Seven days after surgery, your child may bathe as usual and the incision may be submerged under the bath water. Two weeks after surgery, your child may go swimming.
- If your child had a chest tube, remove the dressing in 24 hours. Wash the site once a day with soap and water. The site may have yellow to clear drainage for several days as it heals. If there is drainage, cover the site with a band-aid. Once there is no drainage from the site, you may leave it uncovered.

2. What medications can I give my child for pain?

- You will be given a prescription for pain medicine, if needed, or you may give your child acetaminophen (Tylenol) for pain. If this does not relieve the pain, call our office.

3. What activities can my child do after surgery?

- Your child may eat and drink as usual.
- Your child may return to school in 3 - 4 days. If you need a school excuse, please let us know.
- No P.E., sports, bicycle riding or straining to lift anything for two weeks after surgery. Otherwise, your child will be the best judge of how active he/she should be.

4. What are some problems my child may have after surgery?

- Some swelling and bruising of the incision is normal. Call our office if you notice: increased redness, drainage, pain, or fever (over 101).
- After an abdominal operation, a bowel obstruction (blockage) may occur from scarring. The symptoms of a bowel obstruction are stomach cramping the does not go away, abdominal distention (swelling), and vomiting (green). If your child has green vomit anytime in the future, your child should see a doctor right away.

5. When should my child return to the Surgery Clinic for a check-up?

- Your child's follow-up appointment will be in 2 - 3 weeks. You will receive the appointment in the mail.

If you have any questions or problems, please call:

Monday-Friday
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Call the surgery office at
(501)364-4852.

Nights, Weekends,
and Holidays

Call (501)364-1100. Ask
for the surgeon on call.
