

CARROLL SURGICAL SPECIALISTS

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OPEN WOUND CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Please read and follow the instructions carefully.

Medications:

- Tylenol or Advil (generics are OK) – 2 or 3 tablets 4 times a day. Start as soon as possible, before the local anesthetic wears off. Take the Advil with food or antacid.
- Prescription Pain Medication – If given, take only as needed in addition to the above. Take it with food or antacid.
- Antibiotic – Take the entire prescription as directed. There is usually a refill to take if instructed to do so by your physician

Supplies:

- Neosporin cream ointment
- Sterile Gauze pads
- Tape
- Gloves

You have had an abscess (infection) drained. This has resulted in an open wound, as infection cannot be stitched closed. You do do not have a gauze packing in the wound. You will need to care for this wound, possibly for several weeks, at home. You will be seen in the office frequently to monitor the healing process.

Keep the bandage on and dry until _____ at which time you may begin caring for the wound.

1. Get into the shower or tub and thoroughly wet the bandage. Remove the outer bandage and packing if there is any. If the bandage or packing is very difficult to remove, continue to soak it. The open wound will gradually “fill in” over time from the bottom up. You may see some oozing or a small amount of blood. This is normal.
2. Flush out the wound with warm water in the shower.
3. After the shower, pat the area dry.
4. Squirt a small amount of the Neosporin onto sterile gauze and place it over the wound.
 Pack the wound with dry sterile gauze as instructed
 Apply dry sterile gauze over the wound
5. Apply tape to hold it in place. If possible, change the placement of the tape frequently to avoid skin irritation.

This must be done _____ times a day. If the bandage becomes wet, it must be changed.

6. Keep your hands clean using soap and water or an alcohol hand gel.
7. If someone else is helping with the dressing changes please have him or her wear gloves.
8. Do not share towels or other personal items with others.