

Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals **NHS**
NHS Trust

Emergency Department

Advice about wound care

Information for Patients



Depending on the type of wound you have, one of the following methods has been chosen to treat you.

Stitches (sutures)

The length of time your stitches need to stay in place depends on where the wound is on your body.

Do not attempt to remove the stitches yourself.

Before you leave the emergency department, the doctor/ nurse will tell you when the stitches need to be removed.

You will need to make an appointment with the practice nurse at your doctor's surgery for:

..... stitches to be removed in days' time.

Steristrips

Steristrips are sticky dressings which hold the edges of the wound together. You can remove the steristrips yourself in 5-7 days. Moistening the wound and steristrips with warm water will make this easier to do.

Medical glue

Medical glue does not need to be removed. The glue will form part of the scab and fall off in about 10 days when the wound is healed.

Medical staples

Do not attempt to remove the staples yourself.

Before you leave the emergency department, the doctor / nurse will tell you when the staples need to be removed. You will need

to make an appointment with the practice nurse at your doctor's surgery for:

..... staples to be removed in days' time.

We have given you a staple remover. Please take this with you when you go to your doctor's surgery to have the staples removed.

How to care for your wound

If you have had your wound closed using stitches, steristrips or medical glue, you must keep the wound dressing clean and dry. Do not cover the dressing or wound with waterproof finger stools or plastic bags unless we tell you otherwise, as this may make the wound soggy and increase the chance of infection.

If you have had your wound closed using staples, you can wash the stapled and surrounding area with water. Take special care to dry around the staples thoroughly.

For all wounds

Once the wound closure method has been removed, gently massage the area with moisturising cream to encourage good wound healing.

Signs of infection

Please contact your own doctor if you have any of the following symptoms:

- Redness
- Swelling
- Heat around wound
- Pain
- Discharge

Tetanus

We will only give you a tetanus injection if you have not already had a course of five injections or if you have the type of wound that is particularly prone to tetanus infection.

Tetanus given: Yes No Date

Immunoglobulin given: Yes No Date

Foreign body present: Yes No

Antibiotics given and details:

.....

Type of dressing applied:

.....

Date dressing to be changed:

How to contact us

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

Minor side, Emergency Department

John Radcliffe Hospital

Tel: **(01865) 220224**

Or contact your GP.

If you need an interpreter or need a document in another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01865 221473**. When we receive your call we may transfer you to an interpreter. This can take some time, so please be patient.

Emergency Nurse Practitioner team
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