



Gregory E. Dean, MD, FACS, FAAP
Michael G. Packer, MD, FACS, FAAP
Jonathan A. Roth, MD, FAAP
Zarine R. Balsara, MD, PhD

Diana London, MSN, FNP-BC
Michelle Sheel, MSN, CPNP
Elisheva Kadosh, MSN, CPNP-PC

Post Operative Frequently Asked Questions

What do I do with the dressing that is covering the surgical site?

You should have received specific directions from your child's physician for when to remove the dressing. Typically the dressing should stay on for 2-3 days. The dressing can sometimes be very sticky and difficult to peel off.

Steps to taking the dressing off:

- Soak your child in a warm bath for 15-20 minutes 3-4 times per day. (No soap)
- Attempt to loosen the dressing in the bath
- You can apply vaseline to the dressing generously to help with removal.
- This process may take 1-2 days.

What do I do if the dressing does not fall off after the 3 day time period?

Some dressings are difficult to remove. Please call the office during our normal business hours to discuss with one of our providers. This is not an emergency unless it is accompanied by increased swelling or redness.

What do I do if the dressing falls off earlier than expected or the same day?

If the dressing falls off early, and there is no active bleeding, you may apply vaseline or Aquaphor ointment to the area. Do not soak in the tub until day 2-3 after the surgery.

How do I know if surgical glue was used? How do I remove the glue?

Surgical glue has a bluish tint/color. It may also look like a scab/piece of tissue. Do not remove the surgical glue. This will fall off over time on its own.

What do I do if there is active bleeding?

If there is active bleeding, apply pressure with your finger or with your thumb and forefinger if the penis. Hold pressure for a full 10-15 minutes. Call our office if bleeding persists. The day of



the surgery there may be blood underneath the dressing and this is normal. There may also be blood spotting in the diaper or blood-tinged urine. If there are multiple diapers with blood larger than a half dollar size please contact our office immediately.

The incision site has yellow discharge or drainage. Is this normal?

There may be a yellow film that forms on the area as it heals. This will come off in the tub with soaks. You do not need to wipe this off. It is not an infection. It is normal skin healing.

What do I do if diarrhea/stool gets underneath the dressing?

If your child has diarrhea and stool is under the dressing, you can take a warm cloth and sponge the area or trickle water over the area. You can also take a bulb syringe and fill this with water and apply to the area.

The surgical site looks red and swollen. What should I do?

After surgery, it is common for there to be some swelling, minor redness, and even bruising. If your child appears comfortable, acting normal, then continue to observe. If your child looks like they are in significant discomfort despite pain medication, develops worsening swelling, with a fever or the redness/bruising is rapidly spreading then call our office immediately to discuss with a health care provider.

What do I do if my child gets a fever after the surgery?

If your child gets a fever >100.4 after the procedure or up to 2-3 days later you should notify your pediatrician to be seen. If it is >102 , you must notify your pediatrician immediately and you may be directed to the Emergency Room.

What do I do if my child has breathing issues after the surgery?

Call 911 or immediately take your child to the closest emergency room.

My child still has stitches. How long will they be there?

The stitches or sutures used are dissolvable. They generally fall out in the first few weeks. However, they may take a few months to dissolve.



My child is in pain. What do I do?

You should have received specific instructions from your child's physician regarding pain medication, including the dose, when to give it, and for how long. Please check the discharge papers given to you when your child left the surgical center/hospital.

Your child may have been instructed to take Tylenol (acetaminophen) only, Motrin (ibuprofen) only, or alternating on a schedule for both. Dosages are based on your child's weight. Please read dosing instructions carefully.

Can my child swim in a pool (chlorine, salt water or plain water), lake or the ocean?

Your child is not cleared for swimming in any pool, lake or ocean until seen and cleared at their postoperative visit.

Can my child participate in sports, gym class, recess, or weight lifting?

Your child is not cleared for any athletic activity until seen and cleared at their postoperative visit.

Can my child sit in a car seat or high chair?

Yes your child can sit in the car seat and high chair. Avoid any straddle toys, exersaucers or bouncy seats for 2 weeks after the procedure.