

POST EPIFIX HANDOUT

POST OP CARE FOLLOWING APPLICATION OF EPIFIX:

1. The goal of treatment with EpiFix is to decrease inflammation, pain, scar tissue formation and risk for infection at the surgery site, while speeding the rate of healing. Please follow these instructions to facilitate wound healing.
2. Healing with EpiFix may involve multiple applications. Studies have shown that weekly application of EpiFix to a healing wound results in faster healing.
3. Keep bandage in place until recheck appointment. Do not remove or get the bandage wet.
4. Clear to pink drainage may occur during the first 24-48 hours; this is normal.
5. If the bandage is coming loose, reinforce it with tape or call our office to schedule an appointment to reinforce the dressing. Do not leave open to the air.
6. **Call our office at 719-531-5400 if there is increasing pain or red streaking. If calling after hours or on weekends, please page the on call doctor at 719-222- 1000. If we can't be reached, please go to the Emergency Room**

PATIENT INFORMATION REGARDING THE CARE OF THE WOUND:

During the healing process you will notice a number of changes. The first week to ten days there will be little apparent progress. ALL wounds develop a small surrounding halo of redness, which meaning healing is occurring. However, if you have extensive redness with severe itching this usually indicates an allergic reaction to the ointment used to dress the wound or to the adhesive in the tape or bandage. You should call the office if this occurs or go to the ER.

Swelling and/or discoloration around your surgical site is not uncommon, particularly when performed around the eye or lip areas.

After 1-2 weeks, you will notice the wound beginning to shrink and new skin beginning to grow. This phase of healing will be more rapid. A healing wound has a healthy, shiny look to the surface and is red or dark pink in color. The wound will remain quite red and slowly fade over the next few weeks to months. Sometimes it takes 6-12 months or longer for redness to completely fade.

You may experience a sensation of tightness as your wounds heal. This is normal and will gradually subside.

Your healed wound may be sensitive to temperature changes (such as cold air). This sensitivity improves with times. If you're having a lot of discomfort, try to avoid extremes of temperature.

Patients frequently experience mild itching after their wounds appear to have healed because of continued healing that is occurring.



If you notice any changes in existing or previously biopsied lesions to include growth, shape, color, bleeding, scarring, itching, pain, non-healing, re-pigmentation (darkening), oozing, draining or any other abnormalities, symptoms of flare or if you have any questions at all please call our office immediately to schedule an appointment for evaluation