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Wound Care with Skin Glue and Aquacel Dressing

What Is This Closure Method?

Your incision has been closed using two components working together:

Skin glue (surgical adhesive) — A medical-grade liquid adhesive applied directly to the skin edges to hold them together. It forms a strong, flexible bond that replaces or supplements traditional sutures and staples.

Aquacel dressing — A soft, absorbent wound dressing placed over the glued incision. Aquacel contains hydrofiber technology that absorbs fluid from the wound while maintaining a moist healing environment and protecting against bacteria.

Advantages of This Method

- No staple or suture removal — the glue naturally sloughs off as skin heals
- Absorbent protection — Aquacel manages normal wound drainage without frequent dressing changes
- Antimicrobial barrier — reduces infection risk during the critical healing period
- Comfortable and flexible — moves with your body during activity and therapy

Daily Care Instructions

Leave the dressing in place. Do not lift, peel, or change the Aquacel dressing unless instructed by your surgical team. It is designed to stay on for up to seven days.

Keep it dry for the first 48–72 hours. After your surgeon clears you to shower, you may get the dressing briefly wet. Allow water to run over it but do not scrub or soak. Pat dry gently with a clean towel.

Do not apply anything to the incision. Avoid lotions, ointments, hydrogen peroxide, or alcohol on or around the wound. These can interfere with the adhesive and the dressing.

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No submerging in water. Avoid baths, pools, hot tubs, and lakes until the incision is fully healed and your surgeon gives clearance.

Dressing Changes

Your Aquacel dressing should be removed 7 days after surgery. If the dressing becomes heavily soiled, saturated through, or falls off before your appointment, contact your surgeon's office for instructions.

Once the Aquacel is removed, the incision may be left open to air or covered if needed/desired.

What to Expect

The Aquacel dressing may change color or appear saturated as it absorbs normal wound fluid—this is expected. The skin glue underneath will remain intact, holding your incision closed. You may notice the glue feels slightly firm or looks like a thin film over your incision.

Over 2–3 weeks, the skin glue will naturally crack, peel, and fall off as your skin heals beneath it. Do not pick at or scrub off the glue.

Warning Signs — Contact Your Surgeon If You Notice:

- Increasing redness, warmth, or swelling beyond the incision edges
- Thick, cloudy, or foul-smelling drainage
- Fever over 101°F (38.3°C)
- Separation or gapping of the incision edges
- Bleeding that soaks through the dressing
- Increasing pain not relieved by medication

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