

## When You Should Call the Doctor's Office

### Call Dr. Black's office if:

- the redness dramatically increases in size
- the pain increases
- the drainage increases
- the area is not healed in three (3) weeks

Remember! If the lesion recurs, you must return to see Dr. Black as soon as possible at 552-2200.

Please follow these special instructions also:

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**Steven B. Black, M.D., FACS**  
Certified by the American Board  
of Plastic Surgery

*Call if you have any questions.*

**402-552-2200**

**Toll-Free 1-800-950-8825**

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## Patient Information

### Care After Electrocautery

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*Personalized Care...  
Specializing in You*

# HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR WOUND AFTER ELECTROCAUTERY

Electrocautery is a special technique to remove lesions using an electric needle or wire. Your wound created by electrocautery will require some special care to help it heal with the best possible result. It normally heals within 2 weeks.

## How to use dressings to cover the wound

You may remove the bandaids or dressings as instructed (usually the following day).

After the dressing that the doctor put on is off, you can put bandaids or dressings on your wound to protect it. Avoid round "spot"

bandaids. Use bandaids or gauze dressing to protect your incision if it rubs on your clothes or shoes or is exposed to sun, wind or cold. Use bandaids to protect any wounds that may be rubbed by eyeglasses.

You can also use bandaids or dressings to cover the wound if you feel better with the area covered up. Flexible or cloth bandaids are preferred.

Scratching or "picking" at the area will make it heal slower and will increase scarring. A little itching is normal during healing. Itching can usually be controlled with Tylenol or cold compresses. If you find yourself wanting to scratch the area, you may need to wear a bandaid or other gauze dressing at night to protect the area if you scratch it in your sleep.

## Pain

Usually electrocautery produces little pain. Use Tylenol for pain. Aspirin and Advil increase bruising.

## Apply a thin layer of antibiotic ointment

After you remove the dressings for the first time, apply a thin film of antibiotic ointment once a day to the area. Apply ointment more frequently to wounds on the eyelids or lips.

Polysporin or Bacitracin ointment is preferred (Betadine ointment on the feet). The ointment should be put on just the incision; you do not need to put the ointment on the skin around the incision. These ointments are available without a prescription.

Do not use any other medications on the site unless approved by Dr. Black. Especially, **DO NOT USE RUBBING ALCOHOL, BACTINE OR PEROXIDE ON YOUR INCISION.** These solutions damage and irritate healing tissue unnecessarily. Ointment applied too thick can also irritate.

If you develop a bumpy rash and intense itching after a few days, you may have developed an allergy to the ointment. The appearance resembles poison ivy. Call the office at **552-2200** if this occurs.

## How and when to wash your wound

You may wash your wound gently with mild soap and warm water if it gets dirty. Blot it dry gently and apply the antibiotic ointment again.

## Healing takes place over several months

Some redness around the healing site and a small amount of drainage is normal for several days. Eventually the crust comes off. With proper use of ointment, the crust should "melt off" rather than be pulled off so dry that it separates with pain or destruction of new healing skin.