

Caring for your child's cut

Your child's cut was treated in the Emergency Department. To keep the edges together while the cut heals, we have used:

- Stitches (sutures) that will absorb and do not need to be removed.
- Stitches (sutures) that need to be removed by your health care provider in _____ days.
- Staples that need to be removed by your health care provider in _____ days.
- Tape strips (Steri-strips).
- Skin glue (Dermabond skin adhesive).

The cut may be covered with a dressing. You can expect a small amount of blood on the first dressing, but the bleeding should stop soon.

All cuts will leave a scar, no matter how the edges are closed. The scar will get less noticeable over time.

To make sure your child's cut heals well:

Keep the cut dry for at least 5 days. After 24 hours, your child can have a bath. Gently pat the cut dry with a clean towel.

Keep the dressing dry. Remove the dressing right away if it gets wet. Replace it with a clean, dry dressing. Do not use plastic-covered dressings or bandaids as they keep moisture in.

Change the dressing every day, unless your health care provider tells you otherwise.

Your child should not go swimming until the cut has healed.

Take your child to your health care provider to check the cut and remove the stitches, if needed.

What to do with tape strips (Steri-strips)

Keep the tape strips dry. They will loosen after several days and come off easily on their own. They do not need to be removed.

What to do with skin glue (Dermabond)

Keep the area dry. The glue will stay on to protect the cut for 5 to 10 days. Then it will fall off. It does not need to be removed.

When changing the dressing, do not put tape directly on the glue, because removing the tape may also remove the glue.

If the cut gets wet, gently pat it dry with a clean, soft towel. Put on a clean, dry dressing if needed. Do not put tape or a bandaid over the glue.

If there are steri-strips over the glue, do not remove them. Keep the area dry. The steri-strips will loosen after a few days and come off easily.

Do not use creams or ointments (such as Polysporin) on the cut. They may loosen the glue before the cut is healed.

Do not scratch, rub or pick at the glue. This may loosen the glue before the cut is healed.

Until the glue falls off, protect the cut from sunlight or tanning lamps.

When should I get medical help?

Call your health care provider if your child has any of these problems:

the cut is red, swollen or draining fluid

the edges of the cut open

bleeding from the cut does not stop

your child has a fever: a temperature of 38.3° C (101° F) or higher when taken by mouth or 37.8° C (100° F) or higher when taken under the arm

**If you have any questions or concerns,
please call your health care provider.**