

# Wound care after surgery

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## Numbness

- Your wound may remain numb for about 2 to 12 hours. It all depends on the type of anesthetic used.

## Blood on the dressing

- A small amount of blood on the outside of the dressing is common. If the amount of blood keeps getting larger or the dressing is soaked with blood call the surgeon's office.

## Taking care of your dressing

- Keep your dressing clean and dry for 24 to 48 hours, as instructed by your surgeon. After 24 to 48 hours, remove your dressing and leave the wound open to air, or apply a band-aid.
- You may shower or wash the wound with soap and water after 24 to 48 hours.
- You may have small tapes across your wound called steri strips. After 24 to 48 hours you may get these tapes wet with soap and water. The tapes will fall off in about 10 days on their own.
- If at any point the dressing seems too tight, take it off.
- Avoid dirty water such as: baths, lakes, pools, hot tubs or dishwasher for at least 2 weeks or until you have a follow-up appointment with your surgeon.

## Infection

- If an infection happens, it usually happens about 3 to 4 days after surgery. Rarely, do infections happen earlier.
- If you notice increasing pain, redness, drainage and warmth on the operated area call your surgeon's office or your family doctor.

**Follow-up appointment** \_\_\_\_\_