

Caring for your wound after an incision and drainage of an abscess

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- Please refrain from swimming until your wound is healed.
- Redness and mild swelling may occur around the wound for a few days. This is normal as long as it is improving every day.
- You may shower, bathe in a sitz bath or apply a warm compress to the area to help promote drainage.

WOUND

- Some amount of clear drainage and/or bleeding is normal.
- If a drain has been placed, it is to keep the area open, promote drainage and help the wound heal from the inside out.
- The drain may be tied to itself, or it is held in place with a stitch through the drain and the skin.
- It is acceptable if the stitch or drain falls out early. Please call the pediatric surgery office if this happens.
- You will return to the office one week after the incision and drainage procedure to have the drain removed.
- Cover the drain affected area with gauze and keep the area clean. Change gauze when they become saturated.

HOW TO CLEAN AND CHANGE THE DRESSING

1. **Obtain supplies:** Nonstick gauze, warm water and mild soap.
2. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.
3. Clean the wound with gauze soaked in mild soap and water.
4. Gently pat the wound dry.
5. Cover the wound with nonstick gauze and paper tape, if desired.

Do not use rubbing alcohol, hydrogen peroxide or heavily scented soaps when cleaning and dressing the wound. Do not use ointments, medications or powders on the wound site unless instructed by your doctor.

MEDICATION

- Pain is usually mild, but if you are in pain, take Tylenol (acetaminophen) or Motrin (ibuprofen) as needed.
- Please be sure to complete the prescribed course of antibiotics, if given.

FOLLOW UP FOR DRAIN REMOVAL

- If your child has a drain, you will follow up one week after the incision and drainage procedure at our office to have it removed. Please call our office to schedule your appointment.
- If your child did not have a drain placed, the doctor will determine if a follow-up is needed.

Pediatrics Surgery of Houston

Stephen Kimmel, M.D., FACS, FAAP • Sara Fallon, M.D., M.S. • Haroon Patel, M.D., MHCM

7400 Fannin, Suite 700 • Houston, TX 77054

P: 713-796-1600 • F: 713-796-0397

PediatricsHouston.com



SURGERY OF HOUSTON