

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AND MINOR INJURY UNITS

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WOUND CARE/SUTURES/STERISTRIPS

Your wound may have been treated by Suturing (Stitches), Steristrips (Butterfly Plasters) or tissue glue. The method depends on the type of wound.

Keep the wound dry - wash around where possible.

Do not cover with waterproof finger stalls, plastic bags etc. unless advised, as this will make the wound soggy and prone to infection.

STITCHES

Sutures should be removed in about 5 - 10 days. The doctor or nurse will advise you on this. The sutures will usually be removed by your GP or Practice Nurse. You are responsible for making the necessary appointment.

STERISTRIPS

Steristrips can be removed after 5 - 7 days. The wound should be moistened for about ten minutes and the strips carefully removed.

This can be done at home or by your GP's Practice Nurse.

GLUE

Medical glue does not need to be removed, as the glue drops off by itself when the wound is healed.

If the wound discharges or becomes painful, red or swollen inform your GP

TISSUE ADHESIVE

What you should know about "Glue"

The glue is a special "glue" designed to treat wounds.

Keep the wound clean and dry for 5 days.

If a dressing has been applied, leave it in place for 5 days.

If you are worried about the wound, inform your GP or return to the Accident & Emergency Department.

A scab will form on the wound which will come away once you start washing again.

DO NOT PICK!

There is a small chance the wound will re-open. Don't worry - come back and we will re - assess the injury.

The redness of the scar may take 6 months or more to fade. The scar will be permanent.