



For questions or emergency care, please contact us at 985-327-5905.

POSTOPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS SKIN INCISION

- **NO SMOKING** for at least 2 weeks following surgery. Nicotine causes vasoconstriction (narrowing) of vessels, which decreases the amount of oxygen and nutrients needed to maintain viability of the flap. Smoking will increase the risk of necrosis to the flap.

- If a tape dressing is placed over the suture line to help protect it, do not disturb the tape and try not to get them wet. Typically, they will be removed at your one week postoperative visit.

When no tape has been placed over the suture line, it is important to follow this routine **4** times daily:

- Saturate a Q-tip with full strength hydrogen peroxide from the drug store and gently bathe the suture line. Always stroke along (parallel to) the suture line – never across (perpendicular)
- Following each peroxide treatment, apply a thin layer of over the counter Bacitracin ointment to the suture line.

Remember, this ritual should be repeated at least 4 times daily until the sutures have been removed or until you are instructed to discontinue it. We will usually recommend you continue this treatment program for as long as there is any crusting along the suture line. Be sure to notify us if you suspect any problems, infection, undue swelling/redness, or if sutures come out prematurely.



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