Incision Care

PEDIATRIC NEUROSURGERY HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Your neurosurgeon closed the incision after surgery using one of these ways:

- dissolvable stitches (little black threads) that will dissolve on their own in the next two weeks and fall off

OR

- little pieces of tape over clear dissolvable stitches. These pieces of tape are called Steri-strips and will usually fall off on their own in 10 to 14 days. If they have not come off during that time, you may gently remove them.

Your child’s neurosurgeon requests that, regardless of which method used, you follow these guidelines in caring for the incision when you go home.

- Leave the incision open to air as much as possible
- Keep it clean and dry
- Do not put any ointments or lotions on the incision
- Do not get it wet for 2 weeks
- During the next 3 weeks no swimming or tub baths where the incision would soak in water
- You may remove the dressing the day after you go home if it was not removed in the hospital

Call your neurosurgeon if you have questions or if your child has...

- redness, drainage or swelling from the incision
- your child has a fever of 101.5°F or greater

Your child’s neurosurgeon ___________________________

Phone _____________________