

Incision Care

PEDIATRIC NEUROSURGERY HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARENTS

After surgery, your neurosurgeon will close the incision one of three ways.

___ With fast-dissolving stitches covered by a special glue called Dermabond, which is a clear coating that helps to protect the incision. The stitches will dissolve and the Dermabond will fall off in about 10 to 14 days.

___ With fast-dissolving stitches covered by little pieces of tape called Steri-strips. The Steri-strips will fall off in 10 to 14 days.

___ With staples or stitches that do not dissolve on their own. They will need to be removed by the neurosurgeon or by your child's own doctor or nurse. Ask your neurosurgeon who should remove them.

How to care for the incision

For all three ways of closing the incision, please follow these guidelines at 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.
- For the next 3 weeks, no swimming or tub baths where the incision would soak in water

You may remove the bandage over the incision the day after you go home if it was not removed while your child was in the hospital.

Call your doctor or nurse if ...

- The incision becomes swollen or red, or if it drains
- Your child has fever of 101.5° F or more

Neurosurgeon's office phone _____

