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WOUND CARE FOLLOWING A SHAVE BIOPSY

- Please remove the dressing or bandage 24-48 hours following the surgery. Once the bandage has been removed, you may begin taking showers.
- Begin twice-a-day (morning and evening) cleansing of the wound, using mild soap and water. Do this using a Q-tip™ or clean gauze. Gently cleanse to remove any dried blood or excess crusting; rinse well with tap water. Do this until there is no fresh or dried blood. Continue cleansing with a mild soap or water until the wound is completely healed.
- Adequate cleansing will prevent a thick scab from forming. This is important since a thick scab is destructive to good wound healing and may lead to a more noticeable scar.
- After cleansing, apply a coating of Vaseline® or Neosporin®. **Keep ointment on the wound at all times until the wound is healed.** Apply a bandage over the wound for the first five to seven days.
- Most wounds may be left uncovered after five to seven days. However, wounds that are on an area of the body that becomes easily irritated should be covered with a bandage during the daytime for an additional five to seven days. This bandage can be removed at night.
- A shave excision may take four to six weeks to heal completely, depending on the size of the wound and its location. Continue cleansing the wound with soap and water and applying Vaseline® or Neosporin® until your wound is healed.
- Allow any scab formation to fall out on its own. Do not pick at it.
- Avoid hot tubs, swimming, or taking a bath for two weeks following surgery.

When to call the Doctor

Call the Dermatology Center at 208.467.3006 if you notice any of the following:

- Severe inflammation (spreading redness, tenderness, swelling, or warmth that last more than 24 hours.
- Red streaks near the wound.
- Increased bloody drainage
- Green or yellow drainage, or a foul smell coming from the wound
- A fever that continues for more than 24 hours.

If you have any questions or concerns, call the Dermatology Center of Canyon County