



# Department of Otolaryngology

[www.connecticutchildrens.org](http://www.connecticutchildrens.org)

860.545.9650

## WOUND CARE

The first day after surgery, your child's wound may be tender and may bleed slightly or seep small amounts of clear fluid. Closely examine the wound at least once a day for the first two weeks post-surgery. The suture line and wound edges may appear pink in color for several weeks after surgery.

### Bandages

Immediately after surgery, the wound will be covered with a sterile bandage that can be removed the following day. Most wounds do not require a new bandage. However, if your child tends to touch or pick at the wound, it is recommended to cover the wound with a small adhesive bandage.

Some surgical incisions will be closed with small strips of adhesive called Steri-Strips. Allow the Steri-Strips to peel and fall off as the incision heals. Any Steri-Strips remaining after two weeks may be gently pulled off.

### Stitches

Stitches will be removed by our staff at your child's follow-up visit. Some incisions will be closed with stitches that dissolve on their own. These stitches do not need to be removed.

### Cleaning

Keep wounds clean and dry. Clean the wound/suture line twice daily using mild soap and water. Use half-strength hydrogen peroxide to remove dried blood or crusting. Apply a thin layer of antibiotic ointment as directed by your child's doctor.

### Bathing

Your child can shower or bathe two days after a procedure unless instructed otherwise by your doctor. Avoid directly exposing or submerging the surgical site in water by opting for tub baths or sponge baths. Avoid the use of scented soap, talc, shower gel, or lotions around the wound, as it can cause irritation.

Should you have any additional concerns, please call us at **860.545.9650**. Call our office immediately if you notice any of the following:

- Increasing redness, tenderness or swelling around the wound
- Discolored drainage or pus from the wound
- Increasing pain not treated with medication
- Fever of 101.5°F or greater