



Wound Care Advice

Your child has had a laceration (cut) that has been closed with

- ☐ steristrips
- ☐ dissolvable stitches
- ☐ non-dissolvable stitches

Looking after the wound

- keep it completely dry for 48 hours
- after 48 hours the wound can be briefly wet but not soaked – OK to shower but not to bath or swim, until the wound has healed
- if the dressing gets wet accidentally, take it off, pat the wound dry and place a new dressing over the wound if necessary
- see your GP or practice nurse in 48 hours for wound check & dressing change

Infection

Most wounds do not get infected and antibiotics are not given routinely. Some wounds are at higher risk of infection and for these you may be prescribed a course of antibiotics. A small amount of redness immediately around the wound in the first 48 hours is normal and part of the healing process.

Signs of infection are

- increasing redness that starts to spread away from the wound
- increasing pain or discomfort
- increasing swelling
- an unpleasant smell
- a fever or feeling unwell

If you are concerned the wound is becoming infected please see your GP or return to Children's Emergency.

Removal of stitches

Your child's stitches need to be removed in ____ days

They can be removed by your GP or practice nurse

Dissolvable skin stitches do not have to be removed but it will take around 2 weeks for them to disappear. The knot may be felt as a small lump under the skin for some weeks. Removing dissolvable stitches is likely to reduce scarring by a small amount but this is a matter of choice and depends on the age of the child and anticipated level of cooperation.