

Incision Care after Breast Surgery

When you return from surgery, the incision, where the cut was made, is closed with stitches. You may also have Steri-Strips™ or Dermabond (glue) on the skin surface. Check your incision each day for signs and symptoms of infection or drainage. Take your temperature one time each day. Report any of the following to your health care provider **immediately**:

- More swelling (some swelling is normal)
- More redness, discoloration or heat
- The incision begins to open
- More drainage or drainage with pus
- A foul odor
- More pain or tenderness
- Temperature of 101°F (38.3°C) or higher

Special Instructions

1. Unless otherwise instructed, clean your incision with soap and water one time each day **and** as needed. Pat dry with a clean towel.
2. Apply antibacterial ointment **only** if you are told to do so by your health care team.
3. You are able to take a sponge bath or shower 24 to 48 hours after surgery. Refer to your discharge instructions or ask your health care provider.

Note: If you had a reconstructive procedure, refer to your wound care instructions from your Reconstructive Surgery team.

If you have any questions or concerns, call the Breast Center at 713-792-2360.