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## POST-OPERATIVE WOUND CARE INSTRUCTIONS

*You have had facial surgery performed using a variety of reconstructive techniques depending upon your individual needs. We strive to attain the best surgical closure using all the principles of modern plastic surgery. However, it is important for you to contribute to a successful long-term outcome by following basic but necessary postoperative wound care.*

1. If you have not been given a postoperative appointment, you must schedule an appointment to be seen one week after your procedure (856-602-4000).
2. For the first 3 days, try to keep the wound area dry to allow initial skin closure. Unless otherwise instructed, you may wet the area after 3 days. Pat the area dry without rubbing. For wounds covered with Steri-Strips, leave them dry until you return for suture removal.
3. You may use Bacitracin Ointment (over-the-counter without a prescription) on the wound 3 times a day. This will promote initial healing. Neosporin, Polysporin and Triple Antibiotic Ointment can sometimes cause an allergic reaction on the skin. Therefore, Bacitracin Ointment is recommended.
4. Gently clean the wound with hydrogen peroxide and pat it dry before applying Bacitracin Ointment.
5. Do not place make-up, creams or powders on the wound for the first 10 days unless instructed otherwise.
6. Keep the wound covered from direct sunlight until the sutures are removed. After the sutures are removed a sunscreen containing micronized zinc (available in our office) **MUST** be used for at least 3 months, as any exposure to the sun can result in permanent hyperpigmentation (darkening) of the scar.
7. In addition to the proper sunscreen, there are excellent products available, such as topical antioxidants, which have been showed in laboratory studies to reduce scarring. Using these products prior to surgery can be beneficial. These products are available through Paragon Skin Care Center.
8. Contact our office (856-602-4000) to discuss your individual postoperative skin care requirements and to receive a complimentary skin care consultation. Techniques to conceal the scar are easily learned and there are many products available to help you achieve optimum skin health.
9. Discuss any concerns you may have with your surgical coordinator and/or your surgeon.