



## **OPERATIVE WOUND CARE INSTRUCTIONS**

The lesion you had on your skin was removed surgically by excision, and the edges of the wound were brought together with sutures, producing the operative wound. To keep this area free of infection and minimize scarring, please follow these instructions.

1. Keep the wound as dry as possible until you return for suture removal. If the dressing gets wet, please dry the wound thoroughly, using a blow dryer if necessary, and then apply a light coat of *Vaseline* and redress it.
2. Remove the dressing that was applied following the surgery within \_\_\_\_\_ hours. Please check for any swelling, oozing, bleeding, or pus-like discharge.
3. If small tape strips were applied directly over the wound, please do not remove these with the dressing changes unless you were specifically told to do so.
4. Please cleanse the wound at least twice daily with soap and water washes, dry it thoroughly, and reapply *Vaseline* and a dressing.
5. Please massage the wound gently twice daily starting 48 hours after the procedure while applying *Vaseline* to the wound. This helps soften scar tissue and makes the wound less noticeable more quickly after the surgery.
6. Take a multivitamin and 500 mg. of Vitamin C daily after your surgery, this helps speed wound healing.
7. Please DO NOT SMOKE following surgery. Smoking slows wound healing and increases the risk of complications.
8. Return to the office for removal of the stitches as directed in \_\_\_\_\_ days.
9. Please call the office in \_\_\_\_\_ days for results of the nature of the biopsy specimen if it was sent in for examination.