Caring for Perineal Wounds
Mohs Surgery Clinic

This handout tells you how to care for your wound once you are home. We will go over the handout with you before you leave. If you have any questions or concerns after you are home, please call the phone number at the end of this handout.

When to do wound care

Your wound may be packed with a material called Surgicel®. This helps to stop bleeding. Do not attempt to remove it. It will slowly wash out on its own when cleaning your wound.

In the first 24 hours: Gently squirt lukewarm water from a peri-bottle after each time you go to the bathroom. Squirt from front to back, rinsing the perineum well. Gently pat dry using a clean cloth or toilet paper. Use a clean peri-pad to absorb drainage. Change your peri-pad at least every 4 hours.

After 24 hours: Begin your sitz baths. Fill the bathtub with lukewarm water (many inches high) and soak for 15 to 20 minutes. If you have pain or pressure, sit on a folded towel or use a “donut.” The warm water will cleanse and soothe the wound area. Use a mild soap and gently lather, rinsing well. You may notice the Surgicel® cotton (which may be brown-black in color) will rinse away. After you have patted dry, keep using the peri-pad to absorb drainage and protect the wound. Do your sitz baths 3 to 4 times daily or as often as you can handle it.

Supplies you will need to buy

- Peri-bottle (single nozzle squirt-type)
- Peri-pads (such as Kotex®)
- Soap, bar or liquid
- A “donut” for sitting if you would like
All supplies can be bought at your local drugstore.

Bleeding

Avoid the use of alcohol, ibuprofen, naproxen, aspirin, or medicines that contain aspirin while your wound is healing unless approved by your doctor. These may increase the chance of bleeding. If you do have bright red bleeding that is soaking a pad every 10-15 minutes, call the clinic where you were seen (see numbers listed below) or go to your local emergency room. Expect some drainage to be present. Drainage will decrease as your wound heals.
Tips to prevent bleeding

- For the first few days, prop your hips and legs up on pillows as much as you can
- Avoid straining during bowel movements
- Avoid lifting; no more than 5 pounds for the first week, then as directed by provider
- Avoid tight clothing that will cause rubbing in the area of the wound

Pain Control

If your wound hurts, you may take Tylenol® (acetaminophen) by following package directions. Limit use of over the counter acetaminophen if you are given a prescription that contains additional Tylenol® (acetaminophen). Do not take medicines that contain aspirin or ibuprofen while your wound is healing unless approved by your doctor.

If prescribed a narcotic pain medicine, please do not drink or drive while taking this medicine. It is best to take narcotics with food to prevent nausea/vomiting. Narcotics may also cause constipation. You may use over the counter stool softeners as needed.

If you have a sudden increase in pain that is not helped by pain medicines and ice compresses, please call the clinic where you were seen (numbers listed below). You may have bleeding under your skin and need treatment.

Drink plenty of fluids to keep your urine dilute and reduce stinging when urine passes. Eat plenty of fiber to assist in normal bowel movements. Take a stool softener if needed.

Activities

Do not do heavy activities for the first 2 days or as directed. Do not lift any objects more than 5 pounds for at least the first week or as directed. No sexual activity for 1 week or until cleared by your doctor. No swimming or hot tub until your wound is fully healed.

Infection

Infection is not common when the wound is cared for. Take an antibiotic if one was prescribed for you.

Antibiotic medicine__________________________
When to call the doctor

- If you have bright red bleeding that is soaking a pad every 10-15 minutes
- If you have any signs or symptoms of infection:
  - Fever greater than 101°F for 2 readings taken 4 hours apart
  - Increased pain or swelling of the wound
  - Pus or smelly wound drainage
  - Redness spreading out from the wound

Phone Numbers

If you have any questions or concerns call the Dermatology/Mohs Clinic where you were seen **weekdays** between **8:00 am and 4:30 pm**. **After clinic hours, holidays and weekends**, the clinic number will be answered by the paging operator. Ask for the **Dermatology** or **Mohs Surgery doctor** on call. Leave your name and phone number with the area code. The doctor will call you back.

**UW Clinic East Dermatology/Mohs Surgery**
5249 E. Terrace Drive
Madison, WI 53718
(608) 265-1288, press option 2

**UW Clinic West Mohs Surgery**
451 Junction Rd.
Madison, WI 53717
(608) 263-6226

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person’s health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 11/2014 University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing. HF#4230.