**WOUND CARE AFTER EXCISION:**

Leave the wound dressing on for 24 hours (in some cases, your doctor might specifically tell you to leave it on for 48 hours), then remove the dressing and gently cleanse the area with mild soap or cleanser (e.g. Dove for Sensitive Skin, Cetaphil) and water.

Apply a layer of ointment with Aquaphor or Vaseline jelly to the wound, including directly over the sutures (stitches), if they are visible.

If drainage is minimal, it is fine to leave the wound open with a layer of ointment. If drainage is present or if you are going out of the house, the wound should then be covered with a bandaid or gauze and paper tape dressing.

The dressing should be changed and the area cleaned once daily. Apply Aquaphor or Vaseline ointment nightly to ensure that the wound does not develop a scab. Please continue this wound care daily until the stitches are removed (if applicable). Do not forget to schedule your follow up appointment for removal of the stitches, unless your doctor instructs you otherwise (such as in the case of stitches that absorb on their own).

It is normal for the area around the wound and sutures to be slightly red, but if the area of redness expands to a large surrounding area of skin, if it becomes warm and tender to the touch, or if their is drainage of pus, or for any other concerning symptoms, please call our office.

Please call our clinic if there are any concerns: 202-476-3813