

# Dermabond Care Instructions

Brown Health Services Patient Education Series

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**Your provider closed a wound with Dermabond today. Dermabond is a “skin glue” (cyanoacrylate adhesive) used to repair simple lacerations.**

**These instructions will help you take care of your wound. The glue usually sloughs off in 4-5 days. Keep the wound area dry for the first 24 hours to reduce risk of infection.**

1. After the first 24 hours, the wound can get wet for short periods of time (i.e. in the shower). If you get the wound wet, pat it dry as soon as possible. Do not soak the wound until the glue has sloughed off. This means no swimming or long baths.
2. Don't pick at the glue.
3. Avoid any activities that put stress in the wound until your healthcare provider tells you it is OK to resume your normal activities. If provided a splint, keep it on for the number of days directed by your provider; depending on location splint will be on for 5-10 days.
4. No lotion, cream, vaseline, or tape over the wound as this will dissolve the adhesive.
5. Avoid prolonged sun exposure of the wound until healed
6. Watch for signs of infection and alert your healthcare provider if you experience any of the following:
  - Increasing redness, tenderness or warmth around the suture site
  - Unusual swelling around the site
  - Appearance of pus or any red streaks
  - Fever

**Sometimes, your provider may choose to place adhesive bandages called “Steri-Strips” underneath the medical glue.**

Steri-Strips are pieces of adhesive tape that can be used to help the edges of an incision or cut grow together. They have several advantages, including low rates of infection, speed of application, no need for local anesthesia, and no need for special removal. After the Dermabond sloughs off, the Steri-Strips will curl and peel away from the body. It is OK to trim the edges as they begin to lift, but do not pull, tug, or rub them. Steri-Strips should be gently removed after two weeks if they have not already fallen off.

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**Brown Health Services Patient Education Series: Suture/Steri-strip Care**

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(last updated 1/23)