Wound Care After Abscess Surgery

Home Care Instructions

Take all medications as directed.

May shower or soak in tub, especially before dressing change.

Remove old packing and replace with fresh dry packing daily until the cavity is too small to pack. Cover with dry gauze.

It will be normal to be sore for a couple weeks following surgery. See your surgeon if this seems to be getting worse rather than better.

Take prescribed medication as directed. You may use ibuprofen (Advil or Motrin) and acetaminophen (Tylenol) for discomfort.

Complete all antibiotics as directed.

You may resume normal diet and activities as directed or allowed.

Seek Medical Attention If:

- There is redness, swelling, or increasing pain in the wound not controlled with medication.
- There is drainage, blood or pus coming from the wound lasting longer than one day or sooner if there is concern.
- An unexplained oral temperature above 101.0 develops.
- You develop signs of generalized infection including muscle aches, chills, fever, or a general ill feeling.
- You notice a foul smell coming from the wound or dressing.
- There is a breaking open of a wound (edges not staying together) after the sutures, staples, or steri-strips have been removed.
- You develop dizzy episodes or fainting while standing.
- You develop persistent nausea or vomiting.

Seek Immediate Medical Attention If:

- You develop a rash.
- You have difficulty breathing.
- You develop any reaction or side effects to medications given.