Wound Care After Appendectomy

Home Care Instructions

Take all medications as directed.

May shower starting tomorrow. No swimming or soaking in tub for 2 weeks.

Leave sticky plastic dressings on for 2 to 3 days after surgery then remove and cover as necessary 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.

Narcotic pain medications such as Percocet may cause constipation or nausea if taken without food. Take stool softener of choice as directed as needed, and take with food.

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

Avoid lifting, no contact sports.

Make an appointment to see your doctor for wound check 1 week after surgery.

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 temperature above 101.0 develops.
- You develop signs of generalized infection including muscle aches, chills, fever, or a general ill feeling.
- There is a breaking open of a wound (edge 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 medication given.