

Your child's wound may have been treated by suturing (stitches), wound closure strips or medical glue. The method depends upon the type of wound.

Pain relief

LAT gel is a temporary numbing gel used to aid closure. After use the skin may appear white, this is normal and resolves within a few hours. Local anaesthetic is a numbing injection. As these wear off your child may feel pain sensation return. In this case, simple analgesia such as paracetamol or ibuprofen can be used at home.

Sutures

Sutures must be removed after 5-10 days, unless they are dissolvable; the doctor or nurse will advise you on this. The sutures will be removed by your GP or practice nurse and you are responsible for making the necessary appointment.

Wound closure strips

Wound closure strips can be removed at a later date at home; check with your doctor or nurse to find out after how long. They should be soaked in warm water first and then can be carefully peeled off; do not tug at them as the new skin is fragile.

Glue

Medical glue is designed to treat wounds and does not need to be removed – it wears away once the wound is healed.

The glue is water resistant but avoid soaking your wound in the bath or swimming.

Keep the wound clean and dry for five days.

How do I care for my wound?

- **DO NOT PICK!**
- Keep the wound dry
- Avoid wearing tight clothing that could rub against your wound
- Do not cover with a waterproof dressing – your nurse will dress the wound if necessary
- Do not apply creams or lotions
- Once the wound is fully healed, gently massage the area with unscented moisturising cream to encourage good wound healing

Signs of infection

- A raise in body temperature to above 38°C
- Increased redness, pain or swelling
- An offensive smell, heat around the wound
- A thick yellowy discharge. However, it is normal for there to be a clear straw-coloured fluid weeping from the wound during the first 36 hours
- If you feel generally unwell

When to seek further help?

Most wounds heal normally and you probably will not need to see your doctor or nurse again, outside of suture removal, unless complications develop such as your wound re-opens or you are concerned about infection.

See your GP, or call 111 out of normal surgery hours, if your child develops any of the signs of infection detailed above.

Return to CED if your child's wound re-opens.

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Wound Care

Parent Information Leaflet



Caring for your child's wound

Your child _____ has a wound that has been treated at this department on (*date*) _____.

Your child had _____ stitches placed.