



WHAT TO EXPECT

AFTER YOUR SURGERY

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Now that the sutures have been removed, be careful not to bump or traumatize the surgery site. The area is still healing from within and this process gradually strengthens the wound over the next few months.

The pink color of the scar will gradually fade in time. The scar will feel firm for a while until the healing process is complete.

Sometimes there is loss of sensation or numbness around the surgical site. This is usually temporary and resolves over the months after the surgery. Rarely there may be some permanent loss of sensation.

During surgery, two layers of sutures were used to close the wound. Occasionally one of the inside sutures, instead of dissolving as it should, works its way to the surface and is ejected. This is referred to as "spitting a stitch" and can occur at any time from several days to several months after the surgery. The process resembles the development of a pimple in the surgical wound and sometimes the suture material can be seen protruding from the skin surface. This can be gently removed or trimmed flush with small scissors. Eventually the suture either completely dissolves or is eliminated and the surgical site heals without any visible difference.

Scars on the back, the upper arms, and in areas where there is a great deal of pull or movement in the skin may tend to spread over time. This process is normal and unfortunately unavoidable.

If the scar tissue begins to overgrow or thicken excessively, the area may be forming a keloid or hypertrophic scar. This is a process that is not preventable, but is treatable. Please call the office if this occurs so that we can begin treatment as soon as possible.

Every effort has been made to achieve the best possible cosmetic result from your surgery. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office. Our staff will be happy to help you with any concerns you may have.

Please be sure to keep your follow up appointments. If you've had a skin cancer or an atypical mole removed, you may possibly develop additional lesions in the future. Routine examination and preventive treatment is the best way to avoid additional surgery, and if new lesions do occur, early diagnosis and treatment is best.