



Nail Removal Postoperative Instructions

1. Starting tomorrow, or this evening, you may remove the wound dressing.
2. To remove the dressing, saturate the dressing with clean water. This can be done easily if you take your shower first with the dressing on. Getting the dressing wet prevents removing any scab that might have formed and subsequent bleeding.
3. Once the dressing is removed, soak the toe in a basin of warm soapy water. You may use any liquid soap that is antibacterial, including dishwashing liquid, if available. Soak for about 10 minutes.
4. After soaking the toe, apply a sterile antibiotic ointment/cream with a Band-Aid. You may use Neosporin, triple antibiotic, bacitracin, or something similar. Please review your allergies before using any antibiotics.
5. Repeat steps above for at least 5 to 7 days. Once the area becomes dry and non-tender, you may discontinue topical antibiotic application.
6. After the first week, start air drying the digit/toe. Allowing a digit to dry out will decrease the sensitivity from the raw wound.
7. If you can tolerate it, you may use a light washcloth to scrub the toe, but scrub towards the tip of the toe so you don't push any debris under the nail plate.
8. The nail border that was removed will regrow over the next few months. No extra care is needed until the nail completely re-grows.
9. Please call with any questions or concerns at 630-656-3171.

Note: In the event that you notice any abnormal wound healing, foul smelling drainage or uncontrollable bleeding, please contact our office *immediately*.