

Wounds: information for the young person

Emergency department Patient information

After your visit to the Emergency Department, you may have been given some of the following things:

Glue

We use special medical glue to close wounds and cuts. Keep the area clean and dry for five days. The glue falls off on its own when your wound has healed.

Steristrips

Sometimes we use steristrips (also known as butterfly plasters) to keep wounds or cuts closed. Five to seven days later they can be made a little wet and taken off.

Stitches

For a few cuts or wounds, stitches are needed; these are also called sutures. They are bit like a cotton thread used for sewing. Five to 10 days later a nurse or doctor can take these out.

Dressings

Sometimes we cover burns or wounds with special dressings.

Things to look for on your wound while it is getting better:

- swelling/oozing of fluid
- redness/pain

If these things happen, tell your parents or carers and see your doctor or practice nurse.

Things to do while your wound is getting better:

- keep your wound dry for five days but do not cover it up if the nurse or doctor has not done so
- don't scratch or pick your wound as this may put germs in it which can make you ill.

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