



KANSAS CITY

Skin & Cancer Center

Skin Graft Care Instructions

Following Surgery:

Twice daily, if the yellow bandage over the skin graft area should become soiled with blood, you may gently clean around the edges of the bandage with a Q-tip moistened with tap water and reapply Vaseline over and around the edges of the bandage to keep it moist. It is very important to keep the bandage moist with Vaseline so the skin graft underneath will remain moist and not dry out. No other bandage is required over the yellow bandage unless you desire one. If the yellow bandage should come off before one week, keep the skin graft moist with Vaseline and please call our office.

In one week:

We will remove the yellow bandage unless arrangements have been made with your referring physician to remove it. The skin graft may appear bruised when the bandage is removed, this is normal, and the color will improve over several weeks' time. You may get the skin graft wet in the shower, but do not use a washcloth directly on the graft. Twice daily, the skin graft will need to be gently cleaned with a Q-tip and moistened with tap water and a generous amount of Vaseline applied directly over the skin graft and a Telfa dressing and tape or a band aid applied to the graft to keep it moist. If a dressing is not used over the graft, the Vaseline needs to be applied more often, at least 4-5 times a day. This care will need to continue for approximately 2 weeks after the yellow bandage is removed or until the graft does not appear to be drying out when the Vaseline is discontinued. Makeup may be applied to the skin graft after it has healed, usually in 2 weeks.