

## CARE OF SHAVE EXCISION

- Please remove the bandage 24 hours following the procedure. Once the bandage has been removed, you may begin taking showers.
- Begin once-a-day cleansing of the wound, using mild soap and water. Do this using a Q-tip or clean gauze. Gently cleanse to remove any dried blood or excess crusting; rinse well with tap water. Do this until there is no fresh or dried blood. Continue cleansing with a mild soap or water until the wound is completely healed.
- Adequate cleansing will prevent a thick scab from forming. This is important since a thick scab is destructive to good wound healing and may lead to a more noticeable scar. The less stretch and tension you place on a healing wound with activity, the better it will heal.
- After cleansing, apply a coating of Vaseline or Neosporin. **Keep ointment on the wound at all times until the wound is healed.** Apply a bandage over the wound for the first five to seven days.
- Most wounds may be left uncovered after 5 to 7 days. However, wounds that are on an area of the body that becomes easily irritated should be covered with a bandage during the daytime for an additional 5 to 7 days. The bandage may be removed at night.
- A shave excision may take 4 to 6 weeks to heal completely, depending on the size of the wound and its location. Continue cleansing the wound with soap and water and applying Vaseline or Neosporin until your wound is healed.
- Allow any scab formation to fall off on its own. Do not pick at it.
- Call Dr. Blickenstaff's office at (208) 377-0820 if you notice any of the following: severe inflammation (spreading redness, tenderness, swelling, or warmth that last more than 24 hours), red streaks near the wound, increased bloody drainage, green or yellow drainage, or a foul smell coming from the wound or a fever that continues for more than 24 hours. If you have any questions or concerns, please call us.
- **ADDED NOTE; YOUR SPECIMEN IS BEING SENT TO AN OUTSIDE LABORATORY FOR EVALUATION. YOU WILL RECEIVE A SEPARATE BILL FOR THEIR SERVICES.**