

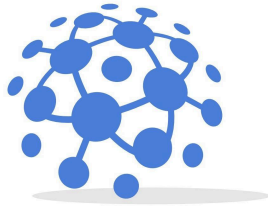
## Bay Skin Cancer Clinic

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### CARING FOR YOUR SKIN GRAFT

Following your surgery there are several important factors that will help your skin graft to heal well. It is important you follow these guidelines and ensure you contact Bay Skin Cancer Clinic if you have any concerns.

Most skin grafts will heal with no complications, however there is a small chance of infection and/or uncontrolled bleeding following surgery. To decrease your risk of infection and bleeding please ensure that you:

- Leave the dressing in place until your follow up appointment. Removing the dressing prematurely may compromise healing.
- Keep the area clean and ensure the area remains dry.
- The doctor will most likely prescribe a 3 day course of antibiotics. (This is to decrease the risk of infection which can affect the likelihood of the graft taking). Please take all 3 days of the antibiotics. If you are reluctant to take antibiotics, please discuss this with the doctor or nurse.

#### Signs that there are problems with the wound:

- **Bleeding:** If you see blood running out of the dressing, apply immediate pressure for 10 minutes. If bleeding persists, please ring Bay Skin Cancer Clinic between 8:30am-4:00pm Monday-Thursday. For after hours, please ring the after-hours Doctor at Accident and Healthcare or contact the hospital if outside Accident and Healthcare opening hours.
- If there is a small blood stain on the dressing, do not worry. Small blood ooze can be expected.
- **Infection:** Although it is rare it can occur from 24 hours onwards. If there is **increasing** pain, swelling, redness or discharge then please contact Bay Skin Cancer Clinic or your enrolled GP, as you may need antibiotics. Any concerns please contact Bay Skin Cancer Clinic or after hours Accident & Healthcare.
- *You will be notified when the Lab results are available, this may take up to 14 days. If you haven't heard by 14 days, please call Bay Skin Cancer Clinic*

**Please update your contact & NoK details with our receptionist.**

***Updated 4 September 2023***