

Disclaimer

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FRESH
2010
PERSPECTIVES



Blackrock Clinic

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

*Stitches (Sutures)
Advice*



Blackrock Clinic

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Accredited by Joint Commission International

Stitches (Sutures)

Your wound has been closed using nylon sutures (stitches).

The length of time your stitches need to stay in place depends on where the wound is on your body.

DO NOT attempt to remove the stitches yourself.

Before you leave the department, the doctor/nurse will tell you when the stitches need to be removed.

Facial Stitches

Stitches on the face may not be dressed.

Apply vaseline to the wound twice a day, but not last thing at night as it will rub off on your bed clothes. This helps with healing and makes removing the stitches easier.

Wound care

You should leave the original dressing that was applied on for 48 hrs if possible.

Wash hands for at least one minute before handling wound.

Dressings should be changed if loose, dirty or wet.

DO

- If showering & changing the dressing, remove wet dressing after the shower.
- Use a clean towel to dry the skin & apply a clean dressing.
- Wash hands after the procedure

DON'T

- DO NOT interfere with the dressing, scratch the wound or apply any creams as this may increase the risk of infection.
- DO NOT use the same towel to dry skin & dry around the wound.

Signs of Infection

If you develop any of the following signs of infection, it is important you visit your GP/or return to the Emergency Department.

- Redness around the wound site
- Increased pain in the wound
- Swelling around the wound
- Heat at the wound site
- Odour or smell from the wound
- Discharge of green or yellow fluid
- Feeling of being generally unwell
- Fever or temperature

Your stitches are due to be removed on the following date:
