CO2 Laser for Scars
Post-Operative Instructions

What are my instructions for care?
For the first 48 hours do not remove your dressing.

After 48 hours:
• You may remove dressing and shower. Use gentle soap on the treated areas.
• Apply bacitracin or Vaseline® to the treated areas at least 2 times per day. Reapply as needed to keep wounds moist at all times.
• A moist wound heals better than a dry, scabbed wound.
• Cover with a gauze. If the gauze sticks to the wound, you may use a nonstick dressing like Adaptic®.
• Keep wound covered with gauze for 5 days.

After 7 days:
• Most of the treated areas should be healed. Your treated areas will likely have a red/pink appearance.
• If you have open areas that have not healed yet, continue to treat with bacitracin or Vaseline® and gauze until healed.
• Healed areas can be left open to air without a gauze dressing.
• Moisturize healed areas with a fragrance free skin moisturizer.
• There are no restrictions on your activity.
• Avoid direct sunlight on the treated area.

When should I call my doctor?
• Fever higher than 101.5 degrees
- Green, discolored, or excess drainage
- Increased pain
- Redness around the wound
- Increased swelling, or other changes in wound appearance
- Foul smell from wounds

Who should I call if I have questions?
- (734) 998-6022, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- After hours and on weekends, call Hospital Paging at (734) 936-6267 and ask for the Plastic Surgeon on call.