



Pin Care

Post-Operative Instructions

What supplies will I need?

- New box of Q-tips
- New bottle of hydrogen peroxide
- Sterile container (we can provide you with this container) or a small jar that has gone through the dishwasher.
- Normal saline (or tap water if approved by your surgeon)

What are my instructions for care?

- Mix equal parts of peroxide and normal saline (tap water) in the designated container (50/50). This is good for **24 hours**. Make a fresh batch daily.
- If someone else is doing your pin care, they need to wash their hands prior to starting. Gloves may be used but are not necessary at home. If you are doing your own pin care, wash the non-operative hand prior to starting.
- Dip a clean q-tip into this solution once (no double dipping as this will contaminate the solution). Initially you will need about 4 q-tips per pin. This will decrease the further out you are from surgery.
- Start immediately around the pin site and work your way out (so you are moving germs away from the pin). Do this twice daily.
- Do not apply any additional products to your pin sites unless instructed to by your provider.
- You will be required to do pin care daily (or more often if instructed) until your pin(s) are removed.

When should I call my doctor?

- Purulent or foul smelling drainage
- Increased pain at pin site(s)
- Increased redness at pin site(s)
- Fever over 100°F

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.

Disclaimer: This document contains information and/or instructional materials developed by the University of Michigan Health System (UMHS) for the typical patient with your condition. It may include links to online content that was not created by UMHS and for which UMHS does not assume responsibility. It does not replace medical advice from your health care provider because your experience may differ from that of the typical patient. Talk to your health care provider if you have any questions about this document, your condition or your treatment plan.

Author: Erin Larowe
Reviewers: Patricia McKenzie, RN

Patient Education by [University of Michigan Health System](#) is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License](#). Last Revised 2/2014