

# CO2 Laser for Scars

## Post-Operative Instructions

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### 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.

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