

**Department of Dermatology**



**Secondary Intention Healing Advice to Patients**

**Queen Margaret Hospital, Dunfermline**

**01383 627015**

**Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy**

**01592 648180**

This information sheet has been written to help you care for your wound after surgery. The operation to remove your skin lesion is now over. Instead of closing the wound by stitching, the doctor would prefer the remaining wound to heal itself. This is called healing by secondary intention. This method of healing will save you from having to have stitches removed, but it will mean you having regular dressings applied to the wound area for approximately two to six weeks, depending on its size and depth.

These dressings can be done by your practice nurse or by yourself. If you feel confident about attending to your own wound care you will be able to change your dressings yourself rather than go to your GP's surgery.

You will be shown by the nurse in the Dermatology Department how to look after your wound. If you are not sure how to do it, please ask.

If you decide to look after your own wound, please follow the guidelines below:

1. For the first 2 days, the dressings should be changed daily. From day 3, the dressing should be changed every 2-3 days.
2. Remove the soiled dressing before washing, bathing or showering.
3. The wound should be cleaned with plain, cooled, boiled water using gauze or a similar material.
4. Pat the area dry.
5. Apply a thin layer of soft paraffin ointment or Vaseline ointment, and then a fresh waterproof hydrocolloid dressing such as Duoderm Extra Thin, Convatec, or Mepilex Border.

If you have any questions about your dressing, please contact the Dermatology Department (contact details above).