

## **CARE OF THE SUTURED (STITCHED) WOUND**

Following these directions will speed-up the healing process:

1. While the wound is oozing or crusted, soak off all debris twice daily with plain soap and water. Then cover it with a Band-Aid to which you have applied an antibiotic ointment.
2. Polysporin and bacitracin ointments are two antibiotic ointments available without prescription. Antibiotic ointments prevent wound infection and prevent the bandage from sticking to the wound surface.
3. Wounds may bleed. Bleeding will usually stop if you apply pressure over the bandage for ten minutes. If bleeding persists, call me.
4. Removal of the stitches is painless and, depending on the type of surgery, is done 7-10 days later.
5. If the skin around the wound becomes red, swollen, and painful, you may have an infection. Call me promptly.