

Further information can be obtained from:

NHS 111	Dial 111
Or contact your GP	
Bluebell Ward, Lister Hospital, Stevenage	01438 284008
Children's A&E, Lister	01438 284333
QEII Urgent Care Centre, Welwyn Garden City	01707 247549
Lister Community Children's Nurses	01438 284012
QEII Community Children's Nurses	01438 288370
Patient Advice and Liaison Service	01438 285811

Wound Closure

Child Health

Patient Information Leaflet



The information in this leaflet was taken from www.cks.nhs.uk

www.enherts-tr.nhs.uk

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You can request this information in a different format or another language.



Introduction

The purpose of this leaflet is to help you to manage the different types of wound closure your child may have.

Watch for signs of infection

Seek medical attention if the area around the wound is:

- Very red
- Swollen
- Feels itchy
- More painful
- Has a green or yellow discharge (pus)

Steri-strips

Steri-strips (also known as butterfly stitches) are small strips, which are applied to the skin to help pull the edges of the wound together. This helps to stop any bleeding from the wound. They have reinforcing strips, which run along their length and are coated with a hypoallergenic adhesive, which is gentle on your child's skin.

How long do they need to stay on for?

Steri-strips need to stay in place for five to seven days to allow the wound to heal.

Removal of steri-strips

To remove steri-strips you need to soak them in water, this can be done in a bath without bubbles. Once the steri-strips are wet the adhesive will come unstuck. If the steri-strips do not fall off by themselves, gently pull them to remove them.

Things to remember:

- **Do not** get your steri-strips wet (until they are due to come off).
- **Do not** remove steri-strips to look at the wound.
- **Do not** remove peeling steri-strips.
- **Do** reapply new steri-strips over ones that are coming unstuck.

Glue

Medical glue is used to form an artificial scab over a wound. It can be used on its own or in conjunction with steri-strips. Glue is used to bring the edges of a wound together, stops bleeding and puts a protective cover over the wound.

Why use glue?

Glue is often used in scalp wounds where steri-strips would be unable to stick due to the hair.

How long does the glue need to stay on for?

The glue needs to be kept in place for five to seven days to allow for wound healing. The area must not be touched for the first 24 hours.

Removal of glue

Glue expands with the healing skin like a scab. If the glue does not fall off itself in five to seven days you can wet the area and the glue will dissolve.

Things to remember:

- **Do not** get the glued area wet.
- **Do not** brush hair around the glued area.
- **Do not** pick at the glued area.
- **Do not** apply dressings to the wound as they will stick.

Stitches and staples

These methods of wound closure are less often used in children's A&E. Facial or scalp wounds are rarely covered.

If stitches or staples are used, they must be kept dry for 24 hours. After 24 hours getting the wound wet while bathing is fine. You can soak any dressings off with water. Dry the wound with a clean towel (only used for your wound) and cover it again when it is dry to protect the area from rubbing on clothes.

How long do stitches or staples stay in place?

Stitches and staples need to stay in place for up to 14 days. Your doctor or nurse will inform you of how long is required for your individual wound. Your GP or practice nurse can remove stitches and staples unless otherwise instructed. (Please book an appointment).

Things to remember:

- **Do not go swimming**

After a traumatic wound, if you are unsure about your child's immunisations / tetanus status, please contact your practice nurse or health visitor to ensure your child has adequate tetanus cover.