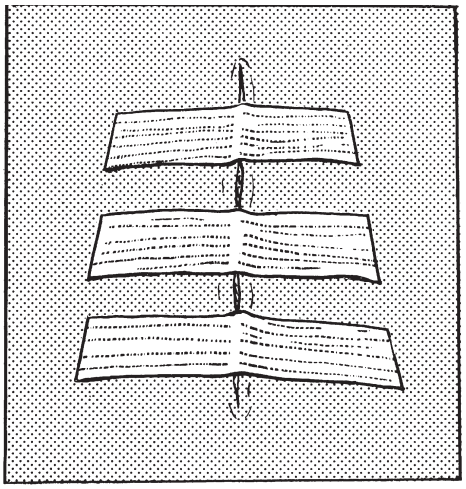
Let's Talk About...

Steri-strips™

Steri-strips™ are strips of tape that are placed across an incision or minor cut. They keep the edges of the wound together as it heals *(see illustration)*.



Steri-strips™ are used instead of stitches because they lessen scarring and are easier to care for.

How do you take care of Steri-strips™?

Your child's steri strips need to be kept clean and dry. One reason is that, when wet, they can trap moisture in the healing wound. Bacteria easily grows in this wet environment, and this can lead to an infection. Another reason is that water dissolves the adhesive on the steri-strips™. This can cause them to come off before the area is healed.

Steri-strips™ need to stay dry for the first five days after surgery.

Most doctors will tell you to leave the Steri-strips™ on until they fall off themselves (about 10 days). You may notice during this time that the Steri-strips™ start to curl at either end. To prevent them from getting caught on something, you may trim the edge with a small pair of scissors. If you are told by your doctor to take the Steri-strips™ off after a period of time, you may soak them with warm water. Never pull the Steri-strips™ across the wound because you may rip the wound open.

Call your doctor if...

You notice that the wound is separating or if you see any signs of infection. Signs of infection are redness, swelling, drainage, bleeding, foul odor, pain, or your child has a fever of 101 F or greater. Try to describe all the symptoms to your doctor.

Intermountain
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