

Let's Talk About...

Steri-Strips™: Wound closure tape

Wound closure tape known commonly as Steri-Strips™ are strips of tape put across an incision or minor cut. They keep the edges of the wound together as it heals. Steri-Strips are used instead of stitches because they lessen scarring and are easier to care for.

How do I care for my child's Steri-Strips?

To care for your child's Steri-Strips:

- Keep them clean and dry for the first 7 days after surgery. Wet Steri-Strips can fall off before the wound is healed or trap moisture in the healing wound. This can let bacteria grow and cause an infection.
- Leave them on until they fall off on their own (about 10 days after surgery).
- Trim the edges of the Steri-Strips with scissors when they start to curl at the ends.

If your child's doctor tells you to remove the Steri-Strips after a period of time, soak them with warm water until they loosen. Never pull the Steri-Strips across the wound. You may rip it open.

When should I call my child's doctor?

Call your child's doctor if you notice the wound separating or any signs of infection, including:

- Redness
- Swelling
- Drainage
- Bleeding
- Foul odor
- Pain
- Fever of 101°F or higher



Notes

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