

Wound glue

Emergency Department factsheets

General information

Your wound has been closed with wound glue. Wound glue is a specialist medical adhesive which has been designed to close wounds and cuts. It can be used instead of conventional stitches or skin staples.

The surface of a wound which has been closed using suture glue will look a little strange in relation to conventional stitches.

The adhesive has been applied to the surface of the skin and may take on an irregular, crinkled appearance, even showing some minor surface cracking. This is quite normal and will not affect the function of the adhesive.

Wound care

- Avoid touching the glue for 24 hours
- The overall appearance can best be described as resembling a dry scab and should be treated like a scab – **do not pick**.
- Keep dry for the first 48-72 hours (cover including wearing a shower cap if the wound is on your head whilst bathing and avoid lotions).
- Avoid excessive movement (including hair brushing) at the wound site during this early period.
- Where there is a likelihood of continued trauma, you may use a clean, dry dressing to cover the wound site. Avoid sticky plasters over glue and remove soiled/wet dressings.
- The adhesive will come away from the skin of its own accord within 10 days, just like a normal scab. By this time the wound should be sufficiently healed.
- In areas where the skin stretches, such as over joints, a wound tape should be applied for a further 3 weeks.
- Studies show that the use of suture glue results in the same or better cosmetic

outcome for most minor wounds, so there is no increase in scarring with use of suture glue. A scar will take approximately six months to fade.

- Further information on scar prevention via:



If your problem persists after seven (7) days, contact your local doctor or health-care professional or re-present to the emergency department.

Seeking help

In a medical emergency, go to the nearest hospital emergency department or call an ambulance (dial 000). For other medical problems see your local doctor or health-care professional. Seek medical attention if the wound:

- splits open or starts to uncontrollably bleed
- becomes red, swollen or more painful
- leaks pus or you have a high temperature, feel hot and shivery.

13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) provides health information, referral and teletriage services to the public in all parts of Queensland and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year for the cost of a local call*.

*Calls from mobile phones may be charged at a higher rate. Please check with your telephone service provider

Disclaimer: This health information is for general education purposes only. Please consult with your doctor or other health professional to make sure this information is right for you.

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