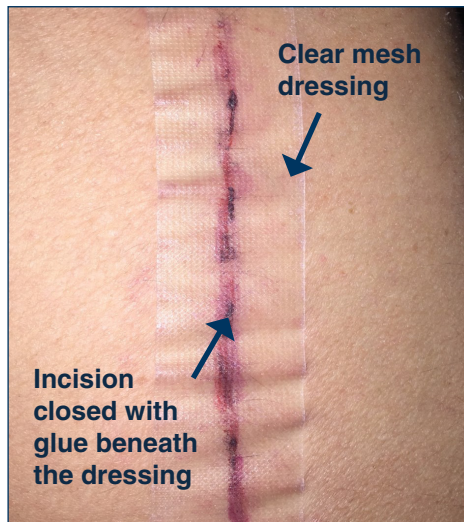
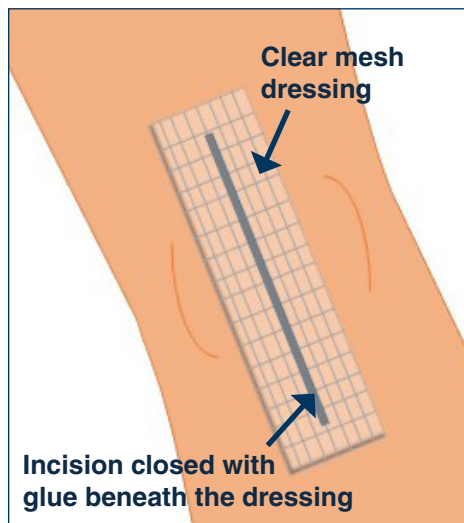




ORTHOPEDICS

Total Joint Replacement: Caring for Your Transparent Mesh and Glue Closure

Caring for your wound is extremely important to prevent infections and complete the healing process. This guide will provide tips on preventing infection and removing the dressing after 21 days.



Daily Wound Checks

Your incision is closed with glue and covered with a clear mesh dressing that makes it easy to see.

Always **WASH YOUR HANDS** before touching your dressing. Check the wound daily, following the guide on the back of this sheet for what to look for and what actions to take.

If the dressing becomes loose or starts to come off, call your surgeon's nurse for further instructions.

DO NOT scratch or pick at the dressing.

Showering

You may shower after you are discharged from the hospital and your dressing is waterproof. Allow water to rinse over the dressing but do not scrub the area. Pat gently with a towel to dry.

Dressing Removal

After 21 days, the clear mesh dressing may be removed by the patient or joint coach. Rub a petroleum based ointment such Vaseline along the entire width and length of the mesh dressing to loosen the glue. Then loosen one of the edges and gently and slowly peel it back from the incision.

Warning Signs and Symptoms That May Signal an Infection Within Your Wound



HEALTHY: SELF CARE AT HOME

What to look for:

- No new drainage
- Dressing is dry
- Pain has not changed or is slowly improving

Take action:

1. Ice and elevate
2. Continue changing dressing as instructed
3. Remember: always wash your hands before you change your dressing!



MODERATE: REPORT SYMPTOMS TO SURGEON

What to look for:

- Increased redness, warmth or odor
- Increased drainage or opening of your wound
- Moderate pain while resting

Take action:

1. Ice and elevate
2. Change dressing after washing hands
3. Check wound daily
4. Call your surgeon to report any symptoms at: **(314) 514-3500** or **(314) 388-5550**



SEVERE: BE SEEN IMMEDIATELY

What to look for:

- Fever above 101°F
- Swelling of your legs or feet
- Pain that is not relieved by your current pain medicines
- Redness, warmth or opening of your wound
- Drainage with an odor
- Unable to walk or bear weight on leg

Take action:

1. Call your surgeon to schedule an appointment at **(314) 514-3500** or **(314) 388-5550**