

Wound closure with Leukosan[®] SkinLink[™]

What is SkinLink[™]?

SkinLink[™] is a reliable method of skin closure which does not require sutures or staples. It comes in 2 parts – adhesive tapes similar to a steristrip or Band-Aid and clear glue which holds the tapes in place.

It is important that you follow these instructions to make sure the wound heals properly and as scar free as possible.

Directions for use

- Do not rub, pick or scratch your SkinLink[™] – this could result in the SkinLink[™] becoming loose which could lead to the wound reopening.
- Do not apply lotions or ointments on or around SkinLink[™] or the wound.
- Do not remove SkinLink[™] before healing is complete – healing usually takes –10 days.
- SkinLink[™] will fall off by itself or may be removed after healing is complete.
- When SkinLink[™] begins to curl, the edges may be carefully trimmed with scissors.
- Keep the wound clean.
- Your child can have a quick shower or bath, but avoid prolonged soaking and swimming.
- Carefully pat dry the wound area after washing and be careful not to not rub SkinLink[™].

Signs of infection

Observe the wound for signs of infection which may include:

- fever within 48 hours of the injury
- redness
- swelling
- increase in pain
- discharge from the wound.

Wound healing and scarring

Scars form as a normal part of healing whenever the skin is damaged. All cuts will heal with a scar. However, the scar will be less noticeable if good care is given to the wound when it is healing.

During the first 6 to 8 weeks after the injury, the scar will change from a thick, red raised scar to a thinner, paler, more flexible one. Scars can take up to 2 years to fully mature. The final appearance of the scar depends on several factors including the extent of the original wound, inherited skin qualities and how well the scar was looked after.



How to look after your scar

Scar massage

After the SkinLink™ has fallen off the wound, or around 2 to 4 weeks after the injury, scar massage can be performed. This should be done for 5 to 10 minutes, twice a day. Do not massage any scar that is open or looks infected.

For the first 2 to 4 weeks, massage should be done along the same direction as the laceration. The pressure applied should be enough to change the colour of the scar from pink to pale, but should not be so firm that it is painful.

After about 4 weeks, the scar can be massaged in all directions. Continue to massage daily until the scar is pale and thin.

Moisturising

Lotions such as Vitamin E cream, aloe vera, sorbolene or other un-fragranced products can be used to soften the scar and make massage easier.

Sun protection

It is very important to protect the scar from sun damage, which can permanently discolour the scar. You should always cover the scar with at least SPF 30 sunblock or zinc cream, wear clothing that covers the scar and stay in the shade.

Daily activity

It is important that your child avoids activities that will get the wound dirty.

Problem scars

A scar is a problem if it is painful or itchy, hard or raised, restricts movement or remains purple or red.

Risk factors for problem scars include certain skin types (especially dark, Mediterranean or Asian skin), previous problem scars, or post-operative wound complications such as poor healing (greater than 3 weeks) or infection.

You should contact your GP if you are concerned that your child's scar is not healing as expected.



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