



Student Health Center

UNC Wilmington

INSTRUCTION SHEET: GLUED WOUND

The Student Health Provider has closed your laceration (cut) with skin glue. Skin glue keeps the wound edges together until the body heals the cut. The glue does not need to be removed. The glue usually remains in place 5 to 10 days before it loosens and fall off the skin.

HOW YOU SHOULD HELP CARE FOR YOUR GLUED WOUND:

- 1- Keep the wound clean. Keep the wound dry except for daily brief showering. Blot the wound dry with a towel after showering. Do not scrub the wound. Do not soak the wound in water, as in bathing, swimming, or dishwashing. Avoid sweating heavily until the glue falls off.
- 2- Do not scratch or pick at the glue, as the glue might come off before the wound is healed. Do not expose the glue to sunlight or tanning lamps for long periods of time.
- 3- A dressing is optional over the wound. If you apply a dressing, use only a DRY gauze dressing. Change the gauze daily or if it gets wet. DO NOT put antibiotic ointment on the wound, as ointment may weaken the glue. Do not apply tape over the glue, as tape may pull the glue off when the tape is removed (apply tape over the gauze instead).
- 4- If the wound is on an arm or leg, elevate the area above the level of your heart. Elevating the area the first 24 to 48 hours minimizes swelling and pain.
- 5- Over-the-counter pain medications can help relieve discomfort associated with a wound. Acetaminophen (Tylenol), ibuprofen, or naproxen can be taken, depending on individual preference.
- 6- If the wound edges open and separate, return promptly to the Student Health Center.
- 7- Inspect the wound daily for signs of infection: increasing redness/ swelling/warmth around the wound, red streaks spreading from the wound, or pus draining from the wound. If you suspect infection is present, return promptly to the Student Health Center.