

INFORMATION LEAFLETS FOR PARENTS / CARERS OF A CHILD

STITCHES AND GLUE CARE



Your child's wound (cut) may need to be sutured (stitched) or glued. Your doctor will advise you if your child requires stitches or glue. Special surgical glue which has been designed to close wounds (cuts) is used to keep the edges of the skin together and takes only a few minutes to apply. Sutures (stitches) may be dissolvable or may need to be removed.

Your child's cut will be red, tender and swollen after stitching or gluing. This should ease as the wound starts to heal in around 2-3 days. All wounds whether sutured or glued will leave a scar but this will fade to light pink/white or nearly invisible over time.

Care at home (Glue)

- Keep the wound site dry for the first 5 days. This will allow the skin to come together and start healing.
- Try not to let your child pick at the glue, scabs or wound. They will come away from the skin of its own accord within about 10 days, just like a normal scab when the wound is healed.
- Excessive movement at the wound site, should be avoided during the first few days.
- Do not use creams or ointments over the glue. This may cause the glue to soften and fall off before the wound is completely healed.

Care at home (Stitches)

- Keep the wound site dry for the first 24 hours. This will allow the skin to come together and start healing.
- Try not to let your child pick any scabs, crusts or dressings. They will come away from the skin when the wound is healed.
- Do not let your child go swimming until after the stitches have been removed.
- If the stitches come out and the wound is open (gaping), **see your local doctor or attend the Emergency Department.**
- The doctor will let you know when the stitches will need to be removed. It is usually 7-10 days, but varies depending on where the wound is.
- See your local doctor to get the stitches removed unless an appointment has been made for your child to return to the Emergency Department.

Dissolvable stitches

- Dissolvable stitches disappear by themselves and do not need to be removed. This may take up to two weeks, or longer in some cases.

CONTACT DETAILS:

Emergency Department

Phone: 01 409 6326

Remember: Ask your nurse if you are unsure about anything about your child's care.

Additional instructions

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