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HOME CARE AFTER SKIN GRAFT

PLEASE FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS IN ADDITION TO THOSE LISTED ON THE **GENERAL HOME CARE AFTER PLASTIC SURGERY** SHEET YOU RECEIVED.

- THE DRESSINGS ON THE SKIN GRAFT SITE WILL REMAIN IN PLACE FOR ONE FULL WEEK AFTER SURGERY.
 - DO NOT TOUCH OR MANIPULATE THE DRESSINGS.
 - IF THE DRESSINGS FALL OFF OR SHIFT NOTIFY OUR OFFICE.
 - AVOID ACTIVITIES WHICH CAUSE PERSPIRATION OR CAUSE THE DRESSING TO MOVE. IF THE GRAFT SITE IS ON YOUR LEG, LIMIT ACTIVITY TO AROUND THE HOUSE AND KEEP YOUR LEGS ELEVATED WHEN IN BED.

- DRESSINGS ON THE DONOR SITE WILL ALSO REMAIN IN PLACE UNTIL YOUR FOLLOW UP VISIT. THIS DRESSING MAY BECOME SOILED, HOWEVER YOU WILL HAVE MUCH LESS DISCOMFORT IF YOU LEAVE THE DRESSINGS IN PLACE.

- USE PAIN MEDICINES AND ANTIBIOTICS AS DIRECTED.

- AFTER THE INITIAL DRESSING IS REMOVED NEW DRESSINGS WILL BE APPLIED. AFTER THE FINAL DRESSING IS APPLIED, YOU WILL NEED TO APPLY BACITRACIN TO THE GRAFT SITE 4 TIMES A DAY TO PROTECT THE GRAFT AND PREVENT IT FROM DRYING OUT.

- IT TAKES 3-6 WEEKS FOR THE GRAFT TO LOOK LIKE SKIN. UNTIL THIS TIME THE GRAFT MAY LOOK GRAY, PALE OR DULL AND WILL HAVE AN UNNATURAL APPEARANCE.

- THE GRAFT WILL IMPROVE OVER THE FIRST 4-6 MONTHS. THE GRAFT WILL MATURE, SOFTEN AND BECOME MORE PLIABLE.

- THE COLOR MATCH IS NEVER PERFECT, HOWEVER THE APPEARANCE CAN BE IMPROVED BY AVOIDING EXCESSIVE SUN EXPOSURE.
 - WE RECOMMEND SUN BLOCK WITH AN SPF 50 OR HIGHER, CONTAINING TITANIUM DIOXIDE.