

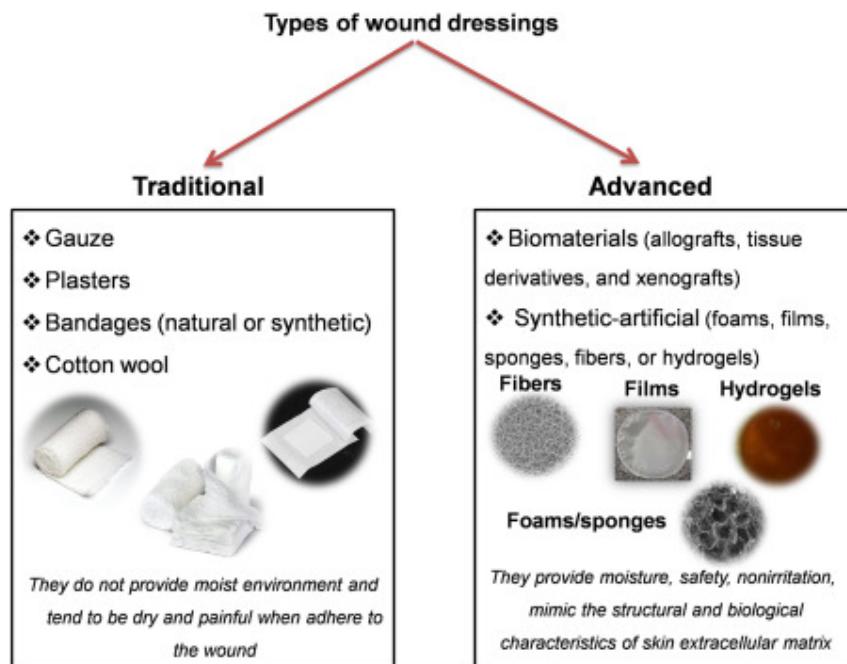
POST OPERATIVE WOUND CARE BY SR ANNETTE ANDERSON (M.CUR)

Most wounds after surgery will be sutured closed. In rare circumstances there might be too much tissue loss to allow the wound to be closed during the operation. A wound may also be left open or opened post-surgery to allow a collection of pus, blood, or serous fluid (wound fluid) to drain. You will be referred to a wound care specialist to assist you with caring for your wound once you have been discharged.

Simple sutured post-surgical wounds are best left alone for at least 1-2 weeks after surgery. If the plaster remains clean, leave the plaster in place and remove when the surgeon or wound care sister has told you to do so. Most vascular post op surgical wound's sutures or clips are usually kept in place for 10-14 days. Should the plaster fall off, wash the wound gently with soap and water, dry well and leave open unless it is likely to become dirty; in this scenario, you will need to cover the wound with dry clean gauze to keep it clean.

Other factors may also increase the length of time your sutures or surgical clips need to remain in place. These include a history of diabetes, smoking, poor blood supply and use of certain medications such as cortisone. These factors delay wound healing and may require the sutures to stay in longer. Please contact your doctor's rooms should you not receive a follow up appointment or wound care advice upon discharge from hospital.

Should your wound become painful, red, swollen or have a discharge once you have been sent home, please contact your doctor's rooms for an urgent follow up appointment or go to the emergency unit at the hospital where you received treatment.



Picture credited to ScienceDirect.com

Please note that this document is for informational purposes only and does not replace a diagnosis or treatment by your qualified doctor.