Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital
Orthopaedics & Traumatology

Notice for Skin Graft Wound Care

Skin grafting is usually used to treat skin damaged by trauma, burns and infections when wounds are too large, too deep or cannot heal on their own. The operation generally removes a part of the skin (skin donor site) from, the healthy skin area, such as thighs, calves and back, in order to cover the injured area (recipient site). Therefore, there will be two wounds after operation, including the skin donor site and the recipient site.

1 Skin Graft Wound Care

During the post-operative hospitalization, doctors and nurses will closely monitor the wound condition of both skin graft and recipient sites. Usually, the wound of recipient site will heal first, while the wound of skin donor site will take longer time to recover. After discharge from hospital, wound care is significantly important. Proper wound care can prevent wound infection, shorten recovery time and reduce scar formation. The following are precautions:

1.1 Please attend the follow up consultation on time. After discharge, please keep the dressing dry and pay attention to personal hygiene. Do not change or remove the wound dressing yourself

1.2 If the wound dressing leaks or becomes loose, please go to nearest Family Medicine Clinic to clean the wound and change the dressing

2 Postoperative Care

2.1 Bath and wash the healed wound with warm water

2.2 Use fragrance-free soap and shower gel for bathing, and apply fragrance-free moisturizing lotion

2.3 Do not expose to the sun excessively to avoid sun burn

2.4 Use fragrance–free sunscreen to prevent pigmentation from darkening the skin

2.5 Itchiness may occur as it is a normal process of wound healing and cell proliferation. Do not scratch with hands. Patting by hands or ice therapy may help to improve the feeling of itchiness

2.6 Wear soft and loose clothing to avoid excessive friction on the wound

3 If the followings occur, please seek medical attention promptly

3.1 Fever with body temperature over 37.5℃/ 99.5℉

3.2 Increase in redness, swelling, local temperature and pain in wound or surrounding area

3.3 Wound with foul-smell or pus discharge

3.4 Skin itching with rashes or blisters

For enquiries, please contact nurses in Orthopaedics and Traumatology Day Ward at 25957015 during office hour (7:00 am - 5:00 pm) from Monday to Friday or seek help from community nurses during home visits.