About Your Split-Thickness Skin Graft

This information describes surgery using a split-thickness skin graft.

During a split-thickness skin graft, your surgeon will remove a thin layer of skin from 1 part of your body (donor site) and use it to close the surgical site that needs to be covered (recipient site). You may have a split-thickness skin graft if you lost a large area of skin due to an infection, burn, or surgery.

About Your Donor Site

Your surgeon will choose your donor site based on the size of the area that needs to be covered. They will show you the area that may be used as a donor site. Sites often used are the upper thigh and buttock. Your surgeon will talk with you about your donor site during your clinic visit before your surgery.

After your surgery, your donor site will look raw and red. You may have some discomfort or pain in the area for 1 to 2 weeks.

Your donor site will be covered with 1 of the following during your surgery:

- A Xeroform®, which is a sterile wound dressing (bandage) and a dry gauze
- A Kaltostat®, which is a padded off-white dressing, under a Tegaderm™ (a clear dressing)

When you’re in the hospital, your nurse will change your dressing every 2 to 3 days after your surgery. If you’re at home, a visiting nurse may change your dressing, or your caregiver will be shown how before you leave the hospital.
About Your Recipient Site

After your surgery, your recipient site may be covered with a pressure dressing or a wound VAC system.

压力绷带

压力绷带将帮助您的接受部位正确愈合。它通过在您的接受部位施加压力来工作，防止液体在下面积聚。这有助于皮肤瓣粘在您的皮肤上。它可能用丝绸缝线（缝合）、夹板、石膏或吊带固定。这将防止您的皮肤瓣移动。

您的外科医生或护士将在您手术后5到7天左右移除压力绷带。在压力绷带被移除后，您的接受部位将被覆盖上Xeroform绷带。

如果您有石膏，您的外科医生将把石膏上覆盖的区域去掉，这将帮助他们检查您的皮肤瓣。除非您做了其他手术，否则石膏将在手术后10天内被移除。如果您做了其他手术，您可能需要将石膏再戴更长时间。使用Ace®绷带、卷起的纱布或胶带将被用来固定您的Xeroform绷带。

您可能会被指示每天更换一次您的Xeroform绷带和纱布，直到您的皮肤瓣完全愈合。您的护士会教您和您的看护者如何更换绷带。

伤口VAC系统

而不是压力绷带，您的外科医生可能会选择在您的接受部位使用伤口VAC系统。伤口VAC是一种特殊的绷带，它将吸力应用到您的伤口上，以促进其愈合。

伤口VAC系统将在您手术后5到7天内被移除。然后您的外科医生将检查您的皮肤瓣以确保它完全愈合。如果没有完全愈合，您可能需要将伤口VAC绷带再戴更长时间。

伤口VAC系统将在您手术后5到7天内被移除。然后您的外科医生将检查您的皮肤瓣以确保它完全愈合。如果没有完全愈合，您可能需要将伤口VAC绷带再戴更长时间。
Caring for Your Sites

One week after your surgery, your surgeon will check to see if your donor site has healed. If it has, it will be let open to air. If not, you will get a new Kaltostat and Tegaderm dressing put on your donor site.

Before your dressing is removed

- Leave the dressing on your donor and recipient sites, unless your surgeon tells you to change it. Make sure to keep the dressing dry.
- Don’t shower or take a bath until your surgeon tells you it’s okay. This will be based on how fast your sites are healing.
- You may take sponge baths but don’t get your recipient site wet.
- You may have some clear yellow or pinkish drainage from your donor site. If you do, you can put dry gauze over the dressing on the donor site.

After your dressing is removed

- While you’re at home, keep the sites open to the air as much as possible. When you go out, put dry, nonstick gauze over the sites, if needed.
- Don’t rub the sites until they have completely healed.
- Avoid exposing the sites to the sun. Apply a PABA-free sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher to the sites, once they have healed.
- After your donor and recipient sites have healed, put a thick layer of A & D® ointment or other moisturizer on the area. Do this once a day after showering. You should continue to do this for 1 to 3 months, depending on your doctor’s instructions.
- At first, your recipient and donor sites will look dark pink in color. This color will change and become lighter over the next few months. Once your sites have completely healed, you can use makeup to cover any scarring.

Call Your Doctor or Nurse if You Have:

- A fever of 101° F (38.3° C) or higher
- Shaking chills
- A thick yellow (pus-like) drainage from your donor or recipient site
- Drainage from your donor or recipient site that smells bad
- New or increased redness or warmth around your donor or recipient site
- New tenderness around your donor or recipient site

If you have any questions, contact a member of your healthcare team directly. If you're a patient at MSK and you need to reach a provider after 5:00 PM, during the weekend, or on a holiday, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.