

Incision and Drainage of Abscess/Boil/Furuncle

Instructions

You have undergone an incision and drainage of an abscess, boil or furuncle, in the operating room or the office. Here are some instructions regarding your care following the procedure. If you have other questions or concerns, please call our office.

Dressing

Gently pack your wound with iodoform gauze and cover it with a dressing twice a day. The intent is to keep the wound open so that pus and other material can drain and to allow it to heal from the inside out.

Shower

You may remove the dressing and iodoform gauze and take a shower; no tub soaks. You may wash the wound gently with mild soapy water. After showering, redress your wound as specified above or otherwise instructed by the physician.

Pain

Based on the size and location of your abscess, you may be prescribed narcotic pain killers; take them as instructed. If the pain is not severe, taking Tylenol is adequate. Avoid taking Aspirin, Advil, Motrin, Aleve or other similar pain killers.

Driving

Do not drive as long as you are taking narcotics and as long as you are having pain.

Activity

You may resume normal activities right away.

When to call

Call our office immediately if you experience any of the following:

- Increased pain, swelling, redness, drainage, or bleeding in the wound site.
- Signs of generalized infection including muscle aches, chills, fever or general ill feeling.
- An oral temperature of 100.5°F develops, not controlled by medication.

Follow-up visit

You follow-up appointment in on _____ at _____