

POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

(WART SURGERY)

General information:

Warts are caused by a virus. The laser is the most effective way to remove warts. It is possible, but rare, for the wart to grow back due to the body's inability to suppress any virus that may remain. It generally takes 4-6 weeks for complete healing. You should be able to walk on your foot during the healing process and you may get your foot wet after the first 24 hours. If there is persistent throbbing, pulsating pain accompanied by redness, swelling, and drainage or you experience any other problem not described here, please call our office. Soaking your foot in warm water and Epsom salts for 15-20 minutes, once or twice a day, can help to relieve discomfort and accelerate healing.

Re-Dressing:

1. Leave your initial bandage in place for 24 hours. After that time, remove the bandage, apply a small amount of bacitracin ointment to the surgical area and cover it with a small square of gauze. This should be held on with tape, coban or a band-aid. Do not use a band-aid without the gauze. DO NOT APPLY HYDROGEN PEROXIDE TO THE WOUND SITE.
2. After the first 1-2 weeks, if you have noticed a decrease in your drainage, you may leave the dressing off in the evening while relaxing. This is to allow the treatment area to prevent drainage from staining your sheets.

Discomfort:

The anesthesia will last for several hours or up to 24 hours. There is generally little discomfort, but an over-the-counter medication is recommended for mild pain. Depending on the location of the wart, there can be some pain when pressure is placed on the wound site. This is normal.

Bleeding:

Most of the bleeding will take place during the first day and night. Keep the initial bandage on for 24 hours unless it becomes soggy with blood, in which case it should be changed earlier. Bleeding will stop with pressure and elevation. Ice is helpful. Do not take aspirin, as it can cause an increase in bleeding.

Re-Growth:

On occasion, the wart will re-grow. This can be caused by the body's inability to completely kill the virus. When the wart is first forming it is not visible to the naked eye. If new warts are noticed several days after surgery, it may be due to the fact that they were not visible at the time of the original procedure. Occasionally, a small scar will form in the area of the surgery. This should not be painful and will gradually fade.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT YOUR POST-OP VISIT WILL INCLUDE AN OFFICE VISIT COPAY.