

Temporal artery biopsy – postoperative care and advice

What to expect after the operation

Leave your dressing on until the first morning after the operation, unless your doctor has given different instructions. Please do not replace it.

Once your dressing has been removed, you may need to bathe your wound to remove any dried blood that has collected under the dressing.

You can expect some swelling and/or bruising around your wound site. Your wound should gradually become less swollen and more comfortable.

Bathing the wound

1. Boil some water, and then allow it to cool in a cup or bowl
2. Wash your hands
3. Moisten a clean tissue in the cooled boiled water. Gently use this tissue to wipe along one side of your wound. Throw this tissue away
4. Moisten a clean tissue in the cooled boiled water. Gently use this tissue to wipe along the other side of your wound. Throw this tissue away
5. Moisten a clean tissue in the cooled boiled water. Wipe across the stitches. Throw this tissue away
6. Repeat steps 3, 4 or 5 as necessary until the wound is clean

Contact a Doctor for help if you have any of the following:

- You are taking regular pain relief and are still in pain
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- You have discharge or bleeding from the wound site
- Any changes in your vision

Pain relief

You may have some mild pain. You can take Paracetamol to help with the pain. A maximum of 2 tablets (1 gram) 4 hourly. No more than 8 tablets (4 grams) in a 24 hour (1day) period.

Avoid taking Aspirin.

Contact details

If you have any concerns or questions regarding your operation please call the Eye Outpatient Department. For after hours, weekends and Public Holidays emergencies contact the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital, your General Practitioner or one of the After Hours Medical Centres. Phone numbers over page.

Please take this information with you.

Follow up appointment

Your follow up appointment is on

At:

- Wellington Eye Outpatient Department, Level 9, Grace Neill Block, Wellington Hospital *or*
- Outpatient Department, Kenepuru Hospital

It is very important to come to this follow-up appointment to make sure all is well with your eye.

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Contact us

Eye Outpatient Department

Phone: 04 806 2650

Monday to Friday - 8.30am – 4pm.

In an emergency dial 111 for ambulance assistance.

After hours medical centres;

- **Kenepuru Hospital accident and medical.** Open 24 hours a day.
Phone 04 918 2300
- **Paraparaumu team medical Coastlands Shopping centre.** Open 8am – 10pm daily. Phone 04 298 2228
- **Waikanae medical centre.** Open Monday – Thursday 7pm – 8am and Friday 5pm – 8pm or anytime weekends and public holidays.
Phone 04 293 6002
- **Accident and urgent medical centre Wellington.** Open 8am – 11pm daily.
Phone 04 384 4944

If you are unsure if you need to visit your GP or Afterhours medical centre you may wish to call **Health Line** for free advice. Open 24 hours a day. Phone - 0800 611 116.