

Department of Breast Surgery

Wound care information

You will have a light 'shower-resistant' dressing over your wound. You can remove this top dressing yourself after 2-3 days. Under this you will have some paper 'steri-strips' – leave these to fall off by themselves, as they help to support the wound. Your stitches are dissolvable. Please avoid having baths or soaking the dressing, but you can have a careful shower and pat dry the area with a clean towel. Once the steri-strips have come off and the wound healed after around 2 weeks, you can bath as usual.

If the wound starts to become red, swollen or more painful, or if there is any discharge from the wound, call one of the breast care nurses so that we can see you in clinic. Occasionally people may get an infection in their wound which requires treatment.

Drain information

Depending on the type of surgery you have had, you may have a drain coming from near the wound: the drain collects tissue fluid in a small collecting chamber, which is measured daily. When there is less than a certain amount (usually 50mls) of fluid collected in the drain over 24 hours, the drainage tube will be removed, which is a simple procedure. It will be possible for you to be discharged with your drain in place. Your district nurse will take over your care, monitor the drain and remove it.