

# **Mt Lebanon Dermatology, PC**

660 Washington Rd  
Suite 201  
Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228  
Tel: 412-440-0270  
Fax: 412-440-0271

## **OPEN WOUNDS**

During the healing process, you will notice a number of changes. All wounds develop a small surrounding halo of redness, which means that healing is occurring. Severe itching with extensive redness usually indicates sensitivity to the bandage, tape or the ointment applied. Call our office if this occurs.

Swelling and/or discoloration around your surgical site is not uncommon particularly when performed around the eye area.

All wounds normally drain (the larger the wound the more drainage), which is why we insist on daily dressing changes. You will notice the wound beginning to shrink and new skin begin to grow. A healed wound has a healthy, shiny look to the surface and is red to dark pink in color. Wounds may take approximately 2-4 weeks to heal. Larger wounds may take 4-6 weeks to heal. After the wound is healed, you can stop daily dressing changes. The wound will remain quite red and slowly fade over the next few weeks or months. Sometimes it takes 6 months to one year to fade completely.

You may experience a sensation of tightness as your wound heals. This is normal and will gradually subside. A frequent massage of the wound will help to soften the scar.

Your healed wound may be sensitive to temperature changes (such as cold air). This sensitivity improves with time, but if you are having discomfort, try to avoid extremes of temperatures. Patients frequently experience itching after their wounds appear to have healed, because of the continued healing under the skin. Plain Vaseline may help relieve the itching.