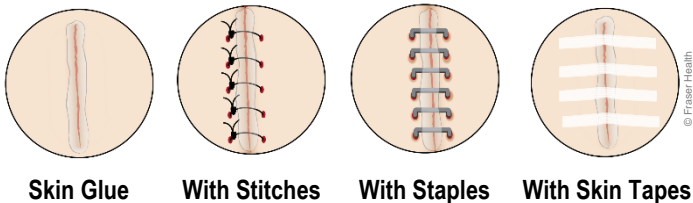


# Caring for a Wound Treated With Skin Glue

## What is skin glue?

Skin glue, also called liquid stitches or suture glue, is a special medical glue used to close wounds or cuts after a procedure or surgery. It can be used on its own, or with stitches (sutures), staples, or white skin tapes (steri-strips).



When the skin glue dries, it forms a film, acting like a scab, and holds the wound edges together. It adds strength to the area and protects the wound while it heals.

Skin glue is meant to stay in place for 2 to 3 weeks and fall off on its own.

## How do I know my wound is healing?

It is normal to have some swelling, redness, and discomfort to begin with. This should improve each day as your wound heals.

Your wound is healed when the glue has fallen off, your wound remains closed, there is little or no swelling, and it is no longer sore.

## How do I look after my wound?

- Leave the skin glue on your skin until it falls off on its own.
- Protect the area from being pulled or injured. You don't want the skin to reopen.
- Keep the wound dry.

- When showering or bathing:
  - Let the water run gently over the wound.
  - Pat dry gently with a soft towel.
- Keep your wound covered when in direct sunlight or using a sunlamp.
- Keep the glue from accidentally coming off or being damaged by doing the following:
  - Do not pick, scratch, or rub the glue.
  - Do not soak your wound in water. This means no tub baths, no swimming, and no hot tubs. This also means not doing activities that cause lots of sweating.
  - Do not put any creams, lotions, ointments, or other skin medications on or near the wound. These could soften the glue and make it come off.
  - Do not put any tape, sticky bandages, or alcohol on or near the wound.

## When should I contact my doctor?

Contact your doctor if:

- Your wound splits open or starts to bleed.
- You think your wound might be infected.

### Signs of infection:

- The wound becomes more red, swollen, and warm to touch.
- The pain or soreness in the wound gets worse.
- Pus or blood is leaking from the wound.
- You have a fever over 38.5°C (101.3F).

