

# Dr. Hamish Hwang Inc.

General Surgery, GI Endoscopy & Esophageal Physiology  
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## Dressing and wound patient handout

### FOR ALL PROCEDURES

- In most cases you will not require staples or sutures to be removed unless you have a long incision or an incision over an active part of the body like the hand or foot. Dr Hwang usually uses absorbable sutures beneath the skin that are invisible.
- If you have a gauze with a clear dressing on top remove them 3-4 days after surgery. If left on too long, it might become sweaty under the clear dressing.
- If you have steri-strip tapes on the skin these reinforce the suture repair and are best left on for a week or more.
- You can shower 48 hours after surgery but do not take a bath or swim for two weeks. If you shower pad all the incisions dry with a towel afterwards.

### FOR BREAST SURGERY PATIENTS (mastectomy or axillary dissection)

- Keep the incision **completely dry** for two whole weeks
- After the drain is removed do not get the drain site wet for **48 hours**

### WHEN TO CALL YOUR DOCTOR

- If the wound starts draining pus or blood
- If the skin around the wound turns red and painful
- If the wound edges completely separate