

Signs of complication

Seek help if one or more of the following signs of complications appear:

- Redness, swelling, local heat (these signs are normal within the first 24-48 hours of placement);
- Persistent drainage and/or foul odour after cleaning;
- Significant increase in pain;
- Onset of fever;
- Opening of the wound;
- Loosening/dehiscence of staples, skin sutures or adhesive skin sutures.



How to deal with complications

If you notice any of these complications or have any other concern related to your wound, contact:

- Info-Santé 8-1-1;
- Your outpatient service centre;
- Make an appointment with your doctor, if necessary.

Skin staples, skin sutures and adhesive skin sutures



What you need to know

**Centre intégré
de santé et de services
sociaux de l'Abitibi-
Témiscamingue**

Québec 

What is the purpose of staples or skin sutures?

To close the wound, the doctor can use staples or skin sutures. Staples or skin sutures are used to hold the edges of a wound or incision together at the surface of the skin in order to promote healing.

How long must they remain in place?

Staples or skin sutures should generally be removed between 7 to 14 days after placement. However, your doctor or specialist may ask you to keep them longer. You will be given a prescription to have your staples or skin sutures removed. It is important to make your appointment by phoning the department you have been assigned.

When applying staples or skin sutures

The necessary precautions

- If your wound does not have a dressing, keep your wound clean and dry for a period of 48 hours.
- After observing the 48-hour period, you can take a quick shower, taking care not to rub the wound and to pat it dry.
- Use a mild, fragrance-free soap for your personal hygiene care.
- Bathing or swimming is not recommended.

Please note that some cases require special follow-up and different management. Please take into consideration the instructions and recommendations specific to your situation according to your medical condition.

When removing staples or skin sutures

The necessary precautions

- You can take a quick shower, taking care not to rub the wound and to pat it dry.
- Bathing or swimming is not recommended for 7-10 days after placement of the adhesive skin sutures. Wait until the wound is closed to avoid the risk of infection.
- Use a mild, fragrance-free soap for your personal hygiene care.

Please note that some cases require special follow-up and different management. Please take into consideration the instructions and recommendations specific to your situation according to your medical condition.

Information regarding adhesive skin sutures (strips)

- They remain in place for a period of 7 to 10 days.
- You can cut off the ends of peeled off adhesive skin sutures as needed.
- Wait until the wound has healed and is free of adhesive skin sutures before applying creams or moisturizing lotions.
- Protect the healed wound with sunscreen to avoid permanent scarring.

