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## **POST OPERATIVE MANAGEMENT OF SKIN GRAFTS ON THE FACE**

The grafted area will usually have a light gauze held on with some light paper tape. This could be removed after 24 hours. Underneath this layer is generally a small piece of sponge rubber which has been sutured on top of the graft to protect and secure it. This should be left alone and kept dry until your next appointment in Dr Knox's office.

Please check with the nursing staff prior to your discharge that arrangements have been made for a follow up appointment in Dr Knox's rooms (if not listed below).

**Smoking can irreversibly damage skin flaps and grafts and should be avoided for 3 weeks post operatively.**

In many instances the skin for a skin graft on the head and neck will have been taken from behind one or other ear and looking after this area is simple. If a head bandage has been applied you should remove this on the day after your surgery.

Beneath that bandage there is usually a piece of light cotton gauze which should be left alone and kept dry until your next appointment. If you are having problems with either the grafted area or the donor site for the graft please contact Doctor Knox's rooms on 9553 9188.