



BAY AREA COSMETIC DERMATOLOGY

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POST CARE FOR CURETTAGE AND DESICCATION (C&D)

WHAT IS CURETTAGE AND DESICCATION?

Curettage and Desiccation (C&D) is a procedure commonly used to treat basal and squamous cell carcinomas. Skin cancers are often softer than surrounding healthy skin cells and are thus able to be scraped away with the use of a sharp rounded instrument called a curette. This process is followed by electrodesiccation of the cancer with an electric needle to cauterize the skin.

C&D may result in a small scar the size of the treated area and could require another treatment. Risks of this procedure include, but are not limited to, the following: pain, redness, swelling, hyper pigmentation, bleeding, bruising, scabbing or infection.

HOW TO CARE FOR SKIN AFTER TREATMENT

The bandage or band-aid should be changed once a day as follows:

1. Remove the old bandage or band-aid.
2. Gently clean the area with soap and water.
3. Gently pat dry the area.
4. Apply a thin layer of ointment over the wound. Vaseline and Aquaphor are available without a prescription.
5. Cover the wound with a new bandage or band-aid until the wound is healed. The wound is healed when there is no longer a crust on the site. It is normal to see a yellow exudate. This is a natural part of healing and not a sign of infection.
6. The wound may take 3 to 6 weeks to heal, depending on the size and the area treated. Good wound care may help the scar fade with time.

If your provider has given you instructions deviating from the general recommendations in this document, please follow your provider's personalized instructions.

Questions or concerns? Please securely send a direct message to your provider through BACD's online patient portal: [MyPatientVisit](#) or call the office 415-292-6350.