



Dr A Anzarut, MSc, CIP, MD, FRCSC

**Plastic and Cosmetic Surgery
ASSH Fellowship trained hand surgeon**

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POST-OPERATIVE CARE FOR SKIN GRAFT

1. **BEFORE THE FIRST DRESSING CHANGE** - The first dressing change will be done by Dr. Anzarut. This occurs 4-7 days after surgery. Prior to the first dressing change the dressings should stay on and it should be kept dry. Some bleeding may occur. If this occurs apply a clean dry cloth with firm pressure for 20 minutes. After the 20 minutes leave the cloth on and release the pressure.
2. **AFTER THE FIRST DRESSING CHANGE** - After the first dressing change the skin graft will need to be re-dressed daily. The old dressings are removed. Clean water is used to wash the area. Then pat dry. After this apply Polysporin ointment to the graft. Next apply a non-stick dressing. Finally apply a dry gauze. This is held in place with *paper* tape or a tensor. Daily dressing changes continue for two weeks. There are many types of Polysporin ointment and non-stick dressings. They are all equally effective. I recommend asking your pharmacist which is the most economical.
3. **LONG TERM AFTER CARE** - During the first year it is important to protect the skin graft from the sun. Sun exposure during this period can lead to hyper-pigmentation. Dr. Anzarut may perform a dermabrasion procedure at 6 to 12 months. This may dramatically improve the appearance of the graft.
4. **CONTACT** - If you have concerns or questions contact the office at 250-597-2064. If you are unable to get through to the office and you have an urgent concern you can call Dr Anzarut on his cell phone at 250-510-4668.