



**King Abdulaziz University  
hospital**



**Postoperative care of surgical  
wound**

**Done by: Ms. Arwa AL Ghamdi**

**Coordinator of pediatric  
cardiac surgery**

**And DR.Osman Radi**

**Consultant pediatric cardiac  
surgeon**



**3. Infection:**

**If you see any of these signs in your child on either of their wound site or chest drain site, contact your doctor directly or bring you child to emergency department:**

- They have a high temperature.
- The site is redder than before and/or the redness is spreading.
- The site feels hotter than the surrounding skin.
- The site is oozing any fluid.
- The site becomes swollen.
- The site begins to smell.
- Your child is complaining of severe pain at the site.

- Best for your child to wear clean cotton clothing while the wounds are healing.
- Sticky plaster marks are hard to wash off so plaster remover can be helpful; please ask for this before you leave the ward if you think you will need some.
- To promote good wound healing, we do not recommend the use of creams, lotions or oils on the area until after your child's follow up review. This is usually six to eight weeks after surgery.

- The wound should be washed gently with warm water and mild unscented soap or baby wash, using a soft clean sponge or wash cloth
- Do not soak the wound until all of the scabs have gone, usually around four weeks after surgery.
- Just before leaving the bath or shower ensure that the wound has a final rinse with clean fresh warm water.
- It is important to thoroughly dry the wound; you should pat the area with a clean dry towel or if possible allow the area to air dry.

## **1. Caring for the incision (surgical cut) :**

- The wound sites should heal in the two to three weeks following surgery.
- The stitches (sutures) in the main wound will dissolve under the skin and do not need to be removed.
- The chest drain stitches will need to be removed five days after the drains came out.

## **2. *Bathing***

- It is important to keep the wound and surrounding skin clean.
- As soon as all the stitches and all dressings have been removed, your child can have a shower.