



**Lowe Plastic Surgery (LPS)**  
SCALP INFECTION CARE INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Supplies Needed:** Soap (Dove or Lever 2000 unscented), Baby Shampoo (Aveeno), Tap Water, Burn or Tubular Net Dressing, Abdominal Pad (ABDs) or Gauze Dressing, Non-sterile Gloves.
2. **Wound care:** An open or infected wound of the scalp is not sterile. When cleaning a non-sterile wound it is important to use good hygiene by washing your hands first and using non-sterile gloves when others are dressing the wound. The wound care sequence:
  - Once a day clean the wound with soap and water, baby shampoo is great on the scalp, gently pat dry. (Avoid soaking in bath or dishwasher).
  - Gently remove old creams or ointments and debris during cleaning.
  - Apply Antibiotic or Ointments only when instructed by your physician as it may result in matting of the hair.
  - Use quarter percent Hydrogen Peroxide to remove old blood or clot
  - Avoid using non-diluted Hydrogen Peroxide and discontinue when old blood gone.
  - Shower when possible once a day and twice a day if wound appears dirty
  - Keep the hair out of the wound and cut away if necessary to avoid matting of hair
  - Nutritional status must be maximized & nicotine products are strictly avoided
  - Drains if present should be measured daily and secured
  - Dressings such as head bands, hats, or gauze can be used to cover wound to collect drainage.
3. **Re-evaluation:** After the wound has been properly cared for it may need to be re-accessed to see if other procedures are required. Scalp wounds are often the result of severe infections and the scalp may need to recover for a period of time prior reconstruction. If the wound is to be heal it must be cleaned first and debris must be removed slowly over time. Not everyone is a candidate for primary scalp closure and some require staged reconstruction or tissue expansion. If the wound remains infected or dirty some patients may require a surgical debridement again before closure is attempted. Second opinions are always recommended prior to initiating a treatment regimen. If the wound does not improve after proper wound care recommendations may include:
  - Local debridement, and change in wound care or medications
  - Wound clinic referral
  - VAC Application – suction wound device
  - Skin grafting or Surgical Reconstruction with flap
4. **Individualized care:** Scalp infection care must be individualized. Each patient has different issues that impact the care such as age, health, nutrition, location, and complexity. There are times when surgery is not appropriate or is contra-indicated. Please notify your physician:
  - Significant bleeding that does not stop after 15 minutes of continuous pressure
  - Wound becomes significantly more red, swollen, hot, or is significantly oozing
  - You develop a persistent fever over 101.5 F°
  - Severe pain not controlled by medications

**PSDA PHONE NUMBER:** (405) 942-4300

- Please call for all lab work if you have not heard from us within several days.
- Please feel free to call us at any time if you have questions, change in condition, or problems.