



ORTHOPEDICS & SPORTS MEDICINE BAYCARE CLINIC®

Dr. Andrew Kirkpatrick

Pin Site Care Post-Operative Instructions

What you will need:

- A new box of Q-tips/swabs
- Saline water (or contact lens solution)
- Alcohol swabs
- Sterile cup

Instructions:

1. Wash your non-operative hand, or if someone is assisting you, have them wash their hands with soap and water.
2. Pour some saline into the sterile cup.
3. Dip a clean swab into the saline water.
 - ★ Never double dip with the same swab once it has touched the pin or skin – this can contaminate the solution.
4. Start at the pin site and clean your skin by moving the swab away from the pin (to always move any germs away from the pin site). Remove any dried drainage or debris away from the pin site and off the skin using your swab.
5. Dip another swab into the water and sweep the next section/side of the pin. You will likely use 3-4 swabs to clean one pin.
6. Open an alcohol swab and clean the post of the pin to the level of the skin but avoiding rubbing alcohol directly on skin.
7. Rewrap with Xeroform for 2 weeks post-op; after this Xeroform is no longer necessary

Repeat this process every 8 hours if there is drainage or daily with no drainage. Do not provide additional products to your pin site unless directed by your provider. Your pin site will likely be wrapped in a Xeroform dressing and gauze while it heals. **You can take a shower with your pins, and they can get wet, however, they cannot be fully submerged in any water.**

Signs/Symptoms of Infection

Please contact the physician's office right away if you experience:

1. Increased pus drainage (yellow/green and thick) or drainage with an odor
2. Increased pain at pin site
3. Body fever over 100° F
4. Increased redness at pin site or red lines in the skin streaking out from the pin site

Contact the physician's office right away if you feel that your pin has become loose, or you notice any movement.

This was reviewed and updated by Andrew Kirkpatrick, MD, and the Occupational Therapy Department on July 14th, 2025.