

# Dr. Jackson's Scar Care Instructions after Cleft Lip Surgery

After cleft lip surgery your child will have small blue stitches on the lip.

These will be removed 5-7 days after surgery.

After discharge from the hospital:

- Apply antibiotic ointment (Polysporin, Neosporin, Bacitracin) to the lip incision 2 to 3 times per day for **3 DAYS**
- After feeds, if the lip is covered with milk or if the lip appears crusty or soiled, can pat gently with wet gauze or washcloth



After removal of the stitches, skin glue (Mastisol) and small tapes (Steristrips) will be placed on the lip over the incision.

- When these fall off on their own, reapply them
- Continue to apply glue and tapes for **3 WEEKS** until removal of the nasal stent
- If lip becomes irritated, can discontinue for 1 to 2 days



Steristrips (skin tape)

Mastisol (skin glue)



Starting at 1 month after surgery, the following is recommended to help the scar heal and look its best:

- Massage the lip scar with moderate pressure 2 times per day. Use Aquaphor, Vaseline, or any greasy lotion to help massage. Do this for a minimum of 1 minute per session and up to 5 minutes per session.
- Apply silicone gel (ScarAway, Kelacote, BioCorneum, any brand) to the lip scar 1 to 2 times per day
- Continue scar massage and silicone gel for **6 MONTHS**
- Keep the lip scar well covered with Sunblock (SPF 30 or higher) when outside