

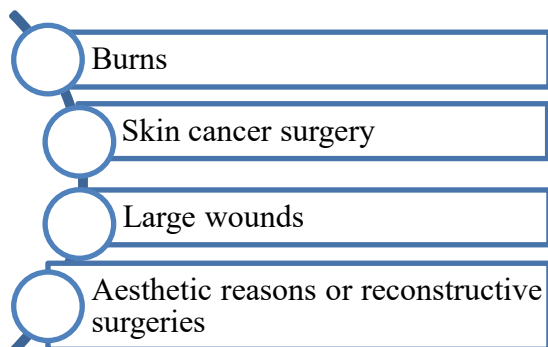
## Skin Grafts



A skin graft involves taking healthy skin from one area of the body and placing it on another area that needs coverage in order to heal. The surgery is usually performed under general anesthesia. After the procedure, two areas will heal: the site where the graft was placed and the donor site from which the skin was taken.

### Why is the procedure performed?

The most common reasons are:



### Risks

Some risks related to anesthesia include:

- Respiratory problems
- Allergic reactions to medications
- Bleeding, blood clots, or infections

**Some risks associated with the surgery include:**

- Infection
- Changes in skin color
- Bleeding
- Alterations in skin sensitivity
- Uneven skin surface (irregular)

### Before the surgery

- Inform your doctor about all the medications you are taking.
- Ask which medications you are allowed to take on the day of the surgery.
- Follow the doctor's instructions about when you should stop consuming food and liquids. Take only the medications the doctor has indicated.

### After the surgery

Once you are discharged from the hospital, you should:

- Use a dressing for 1 to 2 weeks.
- Avoid any blows or injuries to the graft for 3 to 4 weeks.
- Attend physical therapy if recommended by your doctor.

### Care for skin grafts

Some important care instructions include:

- Avoid getting the dressing wet.
- Avoid exercising until your doctor gives you permission.
- Rest for several days after the surgery.
- Do not touch or manipulate the dressing.

### Social and Emotional Aspects

For recommendations, tools, and resources to help you and your family cope with the emotional and physical concerns that may arise during and after treatment, please visit your primary doctor or contact the following telephone support lines:

**Medical Advice Line 1-844-347-7801**

**TTY/TDD 1-844-347-7804**

**APS Health 787-641-9333**

### References

<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/002982.htm>

Prepared by licensed Health Educators.

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