
What to expect during a branchial vestige (skin tag on face or by the ear) repair:

- The removal and repair of the branchial vestiges is done in the office with local anesthesia. The baby will receive a small shot of Lidocaine with Epinephrine to numb the area on the face prior to the procedure (like a shot you get at the dentist). The finger or toe will be completely numb. The baby will not feel any pain during the procedure.
- Feed your baby right before the procedure, and bring a bottle and or pacifier so that your baby will be more comfortable.
- After the skin tag is removed, stitches will be placed to close the open skin. These are dissolvable stitches.
- Your baby will return to the office in 1 week to check the face and skin and remove or trim the stitches. Sometimes stitches may be left in place. These can take 4-6 weeks to fully dissolve.

Discharge Instructions:

- The baby will have small pieces of tape called a steri strip over the stitches.
- If the baby seems uncomfortable that night, give a dose of Tylenol or Ibuprofen. (See dosing chart for the right dose.)
- Keep the hands dry for 24 hours. After that, wash the area with soap and water 1x/day. Do not immerse the area in water for 2 weeks.
- Leave the steri strips on until they fall off or until the follow up appointment next week.
- If the steri strips have fallen off, apply antibiotic ointment (like Bacitracin or Neosporin 3x per day).
- After the first week, apply a small amount of Aquafor ointment to the site 2x/day.
- If stitches are taking longer than 3 weeks to dissolve, gently rub the stitches with a soapy washcloth when bathing the baby.
- When a scar has formed, you can massage the area with Aquafor 2x/day to help soften and smooth the scar. Do this for 2 months.

Please call the office or nurse practitioner (347-502-1439) if...

- Your baby has a fever greater than 100.5 °F
- There is a lot of bleeding and it won't stop. A little bit of blood on the tapes or dressing is fine.
- You notice a funny odor, or yellow, pus- like discharge.