

Advice to parents following insertion of staples

Your child has a cut to the head. Metal staples have been put in to hold the edges together to help it heal.

Although they may look different from stitches, they work in exactly the same way.

Your child may complain of pain for a day or two after the cut has closed. This is not due to the staple, but the cut itself. Children's paracetamol may be given following the dosage instructions on the bottle.

The staples should be removed after 5-7 days by your G.P. or practice nurse. Please contact your doctor's surgery on the day after you attend the Emergency Department to arrange to have the staples removed (if it is the weekend contact the surgery on the Monday). If they are unable to do this, make arrangements to return to the Emergency Department.

Points to note

- Be careful when combing your child's hair as the edges of the comb may accidentally become caught in the staples
- Do not use a hairdryer as the heat causes the metal staples to become very hot
- Ensure your child's head is covered in the hot sun
- If the cut becomes red, swollen or tender, it could mean that it is infected
- If this should happen, contact your G.P. who will advise you on what to do

If you have any questions please call us at the Emergency Department on 0131 312 0007.

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