

**BASIC FIBROBLAST GROWTH FACTORS EFFECT ON SCAR FORMATION
IN THE ACUTE SURGICAL WOUND**

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Basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF) is known to play a vital role in various aspects of wound healing with its effects on keratinocyte migration, angiogenesis, matrix deposition and wound contraction. Therapeutically bFGF is largely considered important for accelerating the healing process. More recently in Asia, there have been two studies that suggest bFGF improves the scar quality when it is injected into an acute surgical wound at the time of skin closure.

Although both studies claim that bFGF improve the quality of scar; neither can offer any explanation into the detailed mechanism of this process. Suggesting that research in this field is in its infancy. In the studies the surgical wounds treated with bFGF were minor skin excisions. It could be argued then that scar formation is considered a 'normal' process after wounding and it is very rare in these cases that abnormal scarring, including hypertrophic and keloid occur.

The clinical relevance then of these studies must be questioned, as it would not be feasible on a large scale due to financial constraints to treat all minor excisions with expensive treatments of bFGF or other cytokines.