

700 Children's Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43205-2696
nationwidechildrens.org

DRESSING CHANGE: AQUACEL®Ag

Your child's wound has been cleansed, covered with a grey-felt-like material called AQUACEL®Ag, and taped into place. This dressing will protect your child's wound from infection. The AQUACEL®Ag may stay on the wound for up to 14 days. However, the outer dressing will need to be changed daily.

YOU WILL NEED

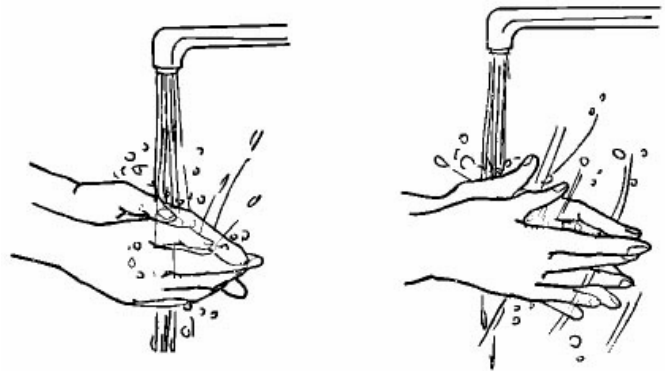
You will need the following items for changing the dressing.

- Paper or plastic bag, or several sheets of newspaper
- Sterile gauze pads
- Sterile gauze roll
- Extra AQUACEL®Ag
- Silk tape

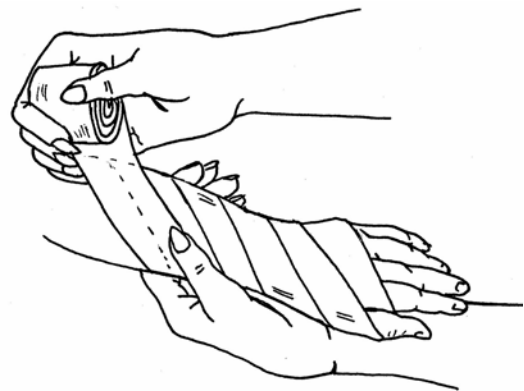
HOW TO CHANGE THE DRESSING

Explain to your child how the dressing change will be done, using simple words he can understand.

1. Wash your hands.
2. Set up all the needed supplies in a clean area.
3. Carefully remove the old dressing and place it in a bag or wrap it in newspaper. Throw it away.
4. Be sure to check the edges of the AQUACEL®Ag to see if any of the burn wound is exposed.
5. If there are open uncovered areas, place pieces of AQUACEL®Ag over the open areas. Be sure to overlap by at least one inch. Then secure the edges of the AQUACEL®Ag with silk tape.
6. Cover the AQUACEL®Ag with dry gauze and wrap with either Kerlix or Conform.
7. Secure with tape.



Picture 1 Wash your hands well before changing the dressing.



Picture 2 Hold the dressing in place with a sterile gauze wrap.

TIPS FOR CARE

The AQUACEL®Ag will become hard as the wound heals. If this is preventing your child's range of motion, you may wet it with a little bit of water before exercise. Be careful not to drench the AQUACEL®Ag. This will cause it to lift away from the wound.

- Be careful not to pull the AQUACEL®Ag off the wound, or you may harm the healed skin.
- Please note that the AQUACEL®Ag will change color as the burn heals. It may look yellow to greenish and may have an odor.
- If you have a concern about the AQUACEL®Ag, please contact your doctor before removing it.
- When your child returns to the clinic, please bring the pain medicine ordered by your doctor in case the AQUACEL®Ag needs to be adjusted or removed.

CARE AFTER THE BURN HAS HEALED

After the burn has healed and dressings are no longer needed, the healed skin needs to be protected. Skin care includes keeping the area clean and preventing injury. These suggestions will help you during this period:

- There's usually some itching, along with dry, scaly, healed skin. Your child should not scratch. This may break the skin and leave open places on areas that are already healed.
- Apply skin lotion over the healed burn at least 3 times a day, and as often as needed to relieve dry skin or itching. You may use lotions that contain cocoa butter, aloe, or lanolin. You don't need to buy the most expensive brand.
- Keep your child's fingernails trimmed short to prevent skin damage from scratching. Clean socks placed over the hands like gloves may reduce nighttime scratching.
- Loose clothes should be worn. Tight clothing can rub the skin and cause blisters.
- Your child should wear only enough clothing to be comfortable. If your child gets too warm, healed areas may start to itch.
- Clothes worn next to the skin should be washed and rinsed well. Any detergent left in the clothes can irritate the skin.

OUTSIDE PLAY

- Burned skin is more sensitive than normal skin. It sunburns easily. When possible, keep your child out of direct sunlight. If your child is in the sun, cover burned areas with light clothing. You may apply a sunscreen lotion with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15. **Sunscreens must be reapplied several times a day.** Don't expose burns to direct sunlight from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is the peak sun burning period. Remember that sunburn can occur on cloudy days, too, so protect the burned area with clothing or sunscreen.
- A child with burns on the face should wear a hat with a brim to help protect the skin.
- Your child's skin will be more sensitive to the sun for **at least a year**. After this time, apply sunscreen and test the skin by exposing a small area to the sun. If the skin gets red in 30 minutes or less, you will know it's too soon to expose the burned area to the sun.
- Ask your doctor if your child is allowed to swim.



Picture 3 When outside, your child should wear a hat with a brim, and sunscreen lotion with an SPF of at least 15.

WHEN TO CALL THE DOCTOR

Most burns heal in 2 to 3 weeks. If the burn is not healing properly, you may notice one or more of these signs:

- Increased pain
- Increased or excessive drainage
- Excessive exposed burn (AQUACEL®Ag slipped off the burn)
- Swelling or redness around the burn
- Child has a fever above 101°F by mouth, 102°F by rectum, or 100°F axillary (underarm).

If you have questions or concerns, please call your doctor (name)

_____ at (phone) _____.

After 5:00 p.m. and on weekends, please call the Nationwide Children's Hospital Burn Unit at (614) 722-4290.

If you have any questions, be sure to ask your doctor or nurse.