

Procedure #3: Applying a Dry Dressing

Wound ; Is a break in the normal integrity of the skin and tissue

Purpose of wound Dressing

- 1- TO protect the wound from infection
- 2- TO protect the wound from mechanical injury
- 3- TO provide proper temp
- 4- TO provide proper humidity
- 5- Proper body image
- 6- Enhance wound healing
- 7- Wound assessment
- 8- TO absorb exudates

Equipment

- Medical(clean) and Surgical(sterile) gloves
- Container for proper disposal of soiled dressing
- Sterile 4 x 4 gauze pads
- Water Proof Drape
- ABD pads (optional)
- 2-inch tape (foam or paper)

Action

1. Gather supplies (Gauze sponges, clean gloves, tape, and antiseptic solution are used to change a dry dressing).



- 2.** Provide privacy; draw curtains; close door.
- 3.** Explain procedure to client.
- 4.** Wash hands/hand hygiene.
- 5.** Apply clean exam gloves.

6. Remove dressing and place in appropriate receptacle. Remove soiled gloves with contaminated surfaces inward and discard in appropriate receptacle; apply clean gloves



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7. Assess the appearance of the undressed wound bed for healing.



8. Cleanse the skin around the incision if necessary, with a clean, warm, wet washcloth.

- If the suture line requires cleansing, it should be done gently. Use normal saline, half-strength hydrogen peroxide, or Betadine swab (consult orders of health care provider and/or institution policy regarding antiseptic agents) and cotton-tip applicators using a rolling motion.
- Used applicators should not be reintroduced into the sterile solution



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9. Remove used exam gloves.



10. Wash hands/hand hygiene.



11. Set up supplies.

12. Apply a new pair of clean exam gloves.



13. Grasping just the edges, apply a new dressing using 4x4 gauze pads folded in half to the 2x4 size. Place the folded gauze pad lengthwise on wound and tape lightly, or apply tubular mesh for those with sensitive skin. Initial the dressing, citing date and time changed.



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- 14.** Remove gloves and dispose of appropriately, then wash hands/hand hygiene.
- 15.** Conduct client and family education session about the dressing, which may include teaching the dressing technique to the client and family.