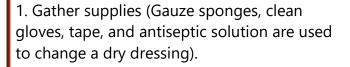
Procedure #10: Applying a Dry Dressing

Equipment

- Clean exam gloves
- Container for proper disposal of soiled dressing
- Sterile 4 x 4 gauze pads

Action

- Washcloth (optional)
- ABD pads (optional)
- 2-inch tape (foam or paper)



- 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









9. Remove used exam gloves.

- 10. Wash hands/hand hygiene.
- 11. Set up supplies.

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12. Apply a new pair of clean exam gloves.





3. 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.

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.

PROCEDURE CHECKLIST Removing and Applying Dry Dressings Check (✓) Yes or (×) No

PROCEDURE STEPS	Yes	No	COMMENTS
Removing Old Dressing and Cleansing Wound			
1. Places the patient in a comfortable position that			
provides easy access to the wound.			
2. Washes hands and applies clean gloves.			
3. Loosens the edges of the tape of the old dressing.			
Stabilizes the skin with one hand while pulling the tape			
in the opposite direction.			
4. Beginning at the edges of the dressing, lifts the			
dressing toward the center of the wound.			
5. If the dressing sticks, moistens it with 0.9%			
(normal) saline before completely removing it.			
6. Assesses the type and amount of drainage present			
on the soiled dressing.			
7. Disposes of soiled dressing and gloves in a			
biohazard bag.			
8. Removes the cover of a tray of sterile 4×4 gauze.			
Moistens the gauze with sterile saline.			
9. Applies clean gloves.			
10. Gently cleanses the wound with the saline			
moistened gauze by lightly wiping a section of the			
wound from the center toward the wound edge.			
11. Discards the gauze in a biohazard receptacle and			
repeats in the next section, using a new piece of gauze			
with each wiping pass.			
12. Discards gloves and soiled gauze into a biohazard			
_bag.			
Applying the Dry Dressing			
1. Washes hands.			
2. Opens sterile gauze packages on a clean, dry			
surface.			
3. Applies clean gloves.			
4. Applies a layer of dry dressings over the wound; if			
drainage is expected, uses an additional layer of			
dressings.			
5. Removes gloves, turning them inside out, and			
discards in a biohazard receptacle.			
6. Places strips of tape at the ends of the dressing and			
evenly spaced over the remainder of the dressing. Uses			
strips that are sufficiently long to secure the dressing in			
evenly spaced over the remainder of the dressing. Uses			