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## DRESSING CHANGE: WET TO DRY

A "wet to dry" dressing is used to remove dead tissue from a wound. A piece of gauze is moistened with a cleansing solution. Then it's put on the wound and allowed to dry. After the dressing dries, the dead skin tissue sticks to the gauze and comes off the wound when the bandage is removed. When the wound has no more old, dead tissue, new tissue forms and healing begins.

### DOCTOR'S ORDER

- Use (amount) \_\_\_\_\_ of (solution) \_\_\_\_\_ to moisten the gauze.
- Change the dressing \_\_\_\_\_ times a day.

### YOU WILL NEED

- Gauze squares (fine mesh, not cotton-filled)
- Cleansing solution as ordered by the doctor
- Plastic bags
- Small glass container
- Adhesive tape
- Roller bandage (if needed)
- Scissors

### BEFORE YOU CHANGE THE DRESSING

Before you start, tell your child you are going to clean his wound to make it well. Let him know it will hurt and bleed a little bit when you take off the dressing. If the dressing change will be uncomfortable for your child, the doctor may suggest pain medicine to be given 1/2 hour before the dressing is changed.

A young child can better understand what you are going to do if you let him play "changing a dressing" on a doll before you change his dressing (Picture 1).



**Picture 1** Let your child "practice" changing a doll's dressing.

## HOW TO CHANGE THE DRESSING

1. Wash and rinse your hands (Picture 2).
2. Unfold a gauze square until there is one layer. Place the square in a clean glass.
3. Pour enough cleansing solution over the gauze to make it wet (Picture 3). Recap the bottle.
4. Wash your hands again.
5. Remove the old dressing from your child's wound and place it in a plastic bag.
6. Clean the inside of the wound with a 2 x 2 or 4 x 4 gauze pad moistened with cleansing solution (Picture 4). Throw away the gauze pad in the bag.
7. Clean around the outside of the wound with a gauze pad moistened with solution. Throw away the gauze pad.
8. Look at the wound to see if it's healing (see *When to Call the Doctor* below). The wound should be pink and may have some bleeding.
9. Place the moist gauze on the wound
10. Cover it with a dry gauze square.
11. Tape the edges of the dry gauze. If the wound is large or difficult to tape securely, wrap a clean roller bandage over the gauze (Picture 5). Tape the end of the roller bandage.
12. Throw away the old dressing. Throw away the used cleansing solution.
13. Wash your hands again.
13. **Store all supplies out of the reach of children.**

## WHEN TO CALL THE DOCTOR

Call your child's doctor if you don't think the wound is healing. If the wound isn't healing properly, you'll see one or more of these signs:

- Change in drainage from wound (color, odor, or amount).
- Swelling or redness around wound.
- Child has a fever over 101°F by mouth or 102°F by rectum.

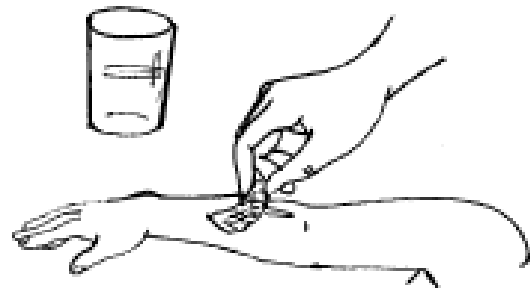
If you have any questions, please ask your doctor or nurse or call \_\_\_\_\_.



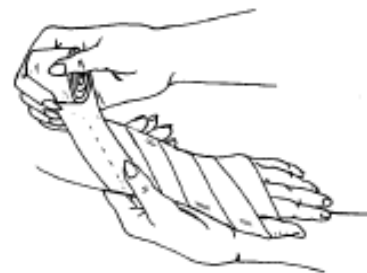
**Picture 2** Wash your hands.



**Picture 3** Place the gauze in a glass. Pour solution over the gauze.



**Picture 4** Clean the wound. Cover with dry gauze.



**Picture 5** If the wound is large, wrap a roller bandage over the gauze.