

Gauze Dressing



This type of dressing is used to protect your wound and keep it clean. Sometimes this dressing is used to cover an ointment or cream on your wound. The dressing will need to be changed:

- Each day
- Every _____ hours
- When it comes loose or gets wet or dirty

Steps to follow

1. Wash your hands with warm water and soap for at least 15 seconds. Rinse with warm water and towel dry.
2. Gather your supplies:
 - Clean washcloth and towel
 - Warm water and soap
 - Gauze pads
 - Paper tape
 - Plastic trash bag
 - Ointment or cream if ordered
 - Solution your doctor ordered _____
3. Remove your old dressing. If the dressing is sticking to your wound, wet it with water and wait a few minutes. Then remove the dressing.
4. Place the old dressing in the plastic trash bag.
5. Clean the wound with a washcloth, warm water and soap or use the cleaning solution. Rinse with water and pat dry with a clean towel. If your wound starts to bleed, you are washing too hard.
6. Check the wound for signs of infection. Call your doctor or nurse if you have:
 - Skin around the wound is more red, swollen, or feels hot
 - Wound smells bad
 - Pus drainage
 - Temperature above 100.5 F
7. Open the package of gauze pads. Remove by pinching it with your fingers, touching only one side of the pad.

8. Lay the gauze pad on your wound.
9. Tape the edges of the gauze with paper tape to hold it in place.
10. Put your supplies away.
11. Wash your hands again. Rinse and towel dry.

If you would like more written information, please call the Library for Health Information at (614)293-3707. You can also make the request by e-mail: health-info@osu.edu.

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