Application of Acticoat® Dressings in Burns
THS Burns Service- State-wide

Application in Burns <10 % TBSA

- Clean the wound with potable or sterile water & chlorhexidine gluconate 0.05% w/v & cetrimide 0.5% w/v or a soap free product for each dressing change. Avoid use of Chlorhexidine in neonates & on faces, including eyes, ears and mucous membranes.
- Assess the wound bed, including:
  - Burn Depth
  - Swab the Wound for m/c/s
  - Total Body Surface Area % (TBSA)
- Prepare sterile field with required dressings such as:
  - Acticoat ®
  - Burns gauze/gauze squares/ or Zetuvit ®
  - Sterile water
  - Scissors and metal forceps
  - Intrasite Gel ® or Hydrogel®
  - Film dressing
  - Microbiology Swab
  - Bandages and Tubifast ®
- Sterile water is used to moisten & activate the Acticoat® & to moisten the sterile gauze. N/Saline should not be used as the chlorine ions bind with the silver ions, decreasing the efficacy of the silver release.

- Squeeze out excess water from Acticoat® and gauze
- Apply a thin layer of Intrasite Gel ®/Hydrogel® to the Acticoat®
- Use the Gel if the wound appears dry or if you are not using a film dressing.
  - The Gel assists with moist wound healing and aids removal with or without the film

- Apply Acticoat ® to wound bed, ensuring that the Intrasite Gel ®/Hydrogel® is in contact directly with the wound bed. Cover all areas. The dressing can be placed onto intact skin 1-2cm around burn.

- Hypafix ® can be applied to the edges to stop the dressing from slipping. This is helpful especially for toes and fingers
- Apply a thin layer of moist gauze. Squeeze out all excess water.

- Cover with a Film dressing such as Opsite ® or Tegaderm ® if required
  - Do not apply film circumferentially due to the risk of swelling
- Apply a dry gauze or Zetuvit ® or Softban ® layer and wrap with a bandage.

- Apply Tubifast ®
- Redress at 24-48 hours post burn and than every 3 days as required.

Other dressing combinations with Acticoat:

- Acticoat can be used in combination with other products such as:
  - Acticoat® and a Hydrocolloid as a secondary dressing
  - Intrasite gel/Hydrogel, ® Acticoat ®and a Foam dressing
  - Acticoat is activated with sterile water as discussed above.
- The THS Burns Service does not recommend showering with Acticoat ®in place
- Do not use paraffin based tulles, ointments with a silver dressings

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the Burns Unit at Westmead Children's Hospital for their assistance with this poster.

Application in Burns >10% TBSA:

For Major Burns the exudate level of the burn wound significantly increases. Dressing application reflects this:

- Clean the wound with warm potable or sterile water & chlorhexidine gluconate 0.05% w/v & cetrimide 0.5% w/v. Avoid use of Chlorhexidine in neonates & on faces, including eyes, ears and mucous membranes. Assess the burn wound bed
  - Burn Depth
  - Swab the Wound for m/c/s
  - Total Body Surface Area % (TBSA)
- Prepare sterile field with required dressings such as:
  - Acticoat ®
  - Burns gauze/gauze squares/ or Zetuvit ®
  - Sterile water
  - Scissors and metal forceps
  - Intrasite Gel ® or Hydrogel®
  - Film dressing
  - Microbiology Swab
  - Bandages and Tubifast ®
  - Sterile water is used to moisten & activate the Acticoat®  & to moisten the sterile gauze. N/Saline should not be used as the chlorine ions bind with the silver ions, decreasing the efficacy of the silver release.

- Squeeze out excess water from Acticoat® and gauze
- Apply a thin layer of Intrasite Gel ®/Hydrogel® to the Acticoat®
- Use the Gel if the wound appears dry or if you are not using a film dressing.
  - The Gel assists with moist wound healing and aids removal with or without the film

- Apply Acticoat ® dressing moistened in sterile water +/- Intrasite Gel ®/Hydrogel®
  - Intrasite gel/Hydrogel® should be used in paediatric patients to assist in dressing removal
- Apply a dry gauze or Zetuvit ® or Softban ® layer and wrap with a bandage.

- Apply Hypafix ® to prevent slippage as required.

- Apply Tubifast ®
- Redress at 24-48 hours post burn and then every 3-7 days as required.

Acticoat 7®:

Acticoat 7® may be used for Minor Burn Injuries and is used as discussed above. Additional padding may be required as the dressing is planned to stay intact for 7 days.

It is available in the Burns Clinic at the RHH and LGH ORS

This product should be used with caution in patients that are at increased risk of infection eg: lower leg wounds, diabetics, cigarette smokers etc.

Hands and Toes:

- For difficult to dress areas like toes and hands. Apply as per above stages with the following tips:
  - Fixate the Acticoat® with Hypafix ®.
  - The moist gauze ® layer is not used as it makes the dressing too bulky.
  - Apply the film layer and dry gauze or Softban ® layer and wrap with a bandage.

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