

Burn dressing information

Acticoat[®]



Acticoat is a silver dressing with layers of mesh coated in nanocrystalline silver. Silver dressings are used for burn wounds to help prevent and treat infection.

How is Acticoat applied?

To release the silver from the Acticoat dressing into the burn wound, the dressing is wet with sterile water (not saline) and wrung out so it remains damp. A thin smear of Intrasite gel is often applied to the damp Acticoat to help prevent stinging on application and to keep the dressing and wound hydrated. A secondary dressing is also required (e.g. Duoderm or a wet sterile water compress and wrap). Oil or parafin based products and salt (e.g. solosite, adaptic, jellonet and normal saline) must not be used as they stop the silver from being released.

How frequently is Acticoat changed?

The frequency of dressing changes will be decided by your child's doctor or nurse. Acticoat dressings must not be left in place for longer than three days. Acticoat may cause temporary discoloration of the surrounding skin.

Who shouldn't use Acticoat?

- People who are allergic to or sensitive to silver.
- There is limited data for the use of Acticoat in premature infants or neonates.
- Acticoat must not be left in place for MRI scans, during radiation therapy or during EEG or ECG examinations.

How do I care for the dressing?

The dressing must be kept clean, dry and in place as advised by your child's doctor or nurse. If the dressing is accidentally removed, becomes wet or dirty, please phone PCH Ward 1B as soon as possible to organise a new dressing to be applied urgently.



What do I need to look for?

Infections in burn patients can be very serious and must be treated urgently. Observe your child and the wound/dressing site frequently. Phone PCH Ward 1B immediately on 6456 3630 if any of the following occur:

- a temperature below 35.5°C or above 38°C
- a rash, increased pain, redness or swelling at the wound site
- changes in behaviour such as poor appetite, sleep disturbances, lethargy (quiet or lack of energy) or flat mood
- excessive ooze/wound fluid (though a small amount is expected)
- offensive odour.



Government of **Western Australia**
Child and Adolescent Health Service

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.

Child and Adolescent Health Service

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