

# Burns Dressing

Information for parents and/or caregivers.

Welcome to the Southern Adelaide Local Health Network. This information sheet is designed to answer any questions you may have about your child having a burns dressing with acticoat.

## Acticoat

Acticoat is used on infected superficial to full thickness burns to provide an effective barrier which protects the wound and kills a broad spectrum of bacteria. It also used on noninfected wounds to protect from infection.

Acticoat comes as a three day or seven day dressing. This indicates the number of days the dressing can stay on before it needs to be changed. Acticoat is a blue coloured dressing with impregnated silver and is usually covered with a product called Hypafix; this is a white adhesive tape that sticks the Acticoat to the wound.

Acticoat needs to stay moist to remain active. To do this you will need to give your child a bath or shower once or twice a day, depending on the weather.

## Daily Maintenance

Clean the bath well and make sure you bath your child on their own.

Do not leave your child in the bath or shower for too long, just enough time to wet the dressing.

Remove your child from the bath or shower and pat the dressings.

The dressings will remain moist under the Hypafix. You can now dress your child normally.

Try not to allow the dressing to become dirty, or wet apart from the bath. Your child should not play in sand or dirt as this may get into the burn dressing, causing infection.

Your child may find that their clothes get wet from the dressing. You may therefore need to change their clothes more frequently. The Hypafix may become a stained brown colour over the duration of the dressing. This colour change is acceptable.

## What to do when when discharged from the Emergency department ?

A few days following your visit from ED you should receive a phone call from the paediatric outpatient department (Paed OPD) to schedule a date to review and change the dressing.

Please contact Paed OPD ( 9 am - 4pm) Mon - Friday on 8204 6171 if you haven't heard from them or if the following occurs:

- Becomes loose or falls off
- Becomes smelly
- If your child is extremely itchy or uncomfortable
- The dressing has any ooze i.e. green/yellow or blood stained.
- If your child develops a fever, vomiting or diarrhoea they must be examined either by your local doctor or at the Emergency Department of the hospital.

Prior to your Paediatric OPD appointment:

- Give your child panadol
- Put generous amounts of cooking oil / olive oil over the dressing and cover with glad wrap. This makes it easier and less traumatic for your child when the dressing is removed.
- Put your child in old clothes as the oil will stain clothes.
- Bring a favorite toy or comforter to help distract your child on the day.

If you are referred to the Womens and Childrens hospital for further follow up, please call Womens and childrens switchboard on 81617000 and ask to speak to the burns clinic.

## References:

Refer to Guidelines for the *Management of paediatric Burns* - Burn Service [www.wch.sa.gov.au](http://www.wch.sa.gov.au)

## For more information

Women's and Children's Division  
Flinders Medical Centre  
Bedford Park  
South Australia 5042  
Telephone: 08 8204 5511



This document has been reviewed and endorsed by consumers.