

Information Leaflet for Parents Aquacel® Ag Extra™



Introduction Aquacel® Ag Extra™

Your child will have a special, Aquacel® Ag Extra™ dressing applied to their scald/burn. This leaflet explains how the dressing works, how to care for it and when to have it changed.

What is Aquacel® Ag Extra™?

Aquacel® Ag Extra™ is a soft sterile fibre dressing. It is impregnated with 1.2% Ionic silver, which kills a broad spectrum of bacteria. It absorbs wound fluid, creating a gel that sticks to the wound surface. This supports the healing process and reduces the risk of wound infection. It is used as a temporary cover for clean partial thickness burns or scalds and will stay in place to protect your wound while it heals.

The Benefits of Aquacel® Ag Extra™

- Easy application
- Reduced pain and discomfort
- Can be left in place for up to 21 days or longer if deemed necessary by the Burns Team
- Fewer dressing changes required
- It acts as a barrier to external contamination

Application of Aquacel® Ag Extra™

Aquacel® Ag Extra™ dressing usually requires a single application and is initially applied directly to your child's cleaned burn wound by a member of the burns team. Depending on the location and size of your child's burn/scald this will take place in the Plastic Trauma Clinic with oral pain relief or in theatre under a general anaesthetic. It is normal for some fluid from the wound to drain through the dressing so an outer absorbent dressing such as sterile burns gauze is applied over the Aquacel® Ag Extra™ for absorption. The outer dressing should be kept dry and it should not be removed.

What to Expect

A few days after the dressing is applied, a member of the burns team will remove the outer dressing to review the Aquacel® Ag Extra™ dressing. Any areas of the dressing that have not stuck to the wound will be trimmed away and more dressing will be applied to any exposed burn. The Aquacel® Ag Extra™ which has already adhered will not be removed and a new outer dressing will be applied.

As the wound heals the Aquacel® Ag Extra™ dressing bonds to the wound, dries and becomes hard. It also takes on the colour of the wound fluids. It is designed to detach once the wound is healed. Its hardened edges will begin to lift about 7 to 14 days after the dressing is first applied. Between day 10 and 14 a member of the burns team will check the dressing again and trim any dressing that is lifting. You may be asked to check the dressing at home and to trim any detached Aquacel® Ag+ Extra™ dressing with a clean scissors. The dressing will continue to detach as the wound heals. Once the skin has fully healed, a non-perfumed moisturiser such as Aveeno moisturising lotion should be applied to the healed area as advised by the burns team.

Developed by: Geraldine McCormack / Tina McGarry/Grainne Noone – Burns & Plastics CNSP's (October 2020)