



Advanced Wound Care Dressing Categories

Alginates

Alginates are derived from seaweed and designed to absorb high amounts of exudate. They promote autolytic debridement while maintaining an optimal moist wound environment enhancing wound healing. There are pads and rope available.

Antimicrobials

This dressing is used on complex chronic wounds reducing surface bacteria in the wound. Silvers, Iodine, PHMB, DACC, and CHG are antimicrobial agents used. It is available in powders, films, foams, alginates, sheets, gels, and other dressings.

Collagens

Collagen is the protein that gives strength to the skin therefore making collagen appropriate for stalled wounds. There are various collagen technologies available. Collagen can be derived from various sources such as bovine, equine, Piscean, ovine, porcine, and avian. Dressing formulations include particles, powder, gel, sheets, and pads.

Composites

Composite dressings are multifunctional in providing a protective barrier, promoting autolytic debridement, and moldable. This dressing is comprised of a non-adherent pad and is available with and without a border of retention tape or transparent film. Absorbency is minimal to moderate.

Contact Layers

These dressings provide an interface between the wound and the dressing protecting healing wound tissues. Contact layers wick exudate away from the wound and protect the wound base.

Foam Dressings

Foam dressings can be bordered or non-bordered. They absorb moderate to heavy exudate. Foams are also used as a prophylactic dressing in prevention injury to the periwound or skin. This dressing is conformable, non-adherent, thermoregulating, and a protective barrier.

Gauze Dressings

Gauzes are non-woven or woven. They are not all the same and depending on what the usage is, determines which gauze is most appropriate. Gauze can be used for cleansing wounds, packing wounds, and covering wounds.

Gelling Fibers/Hydrofibers

These dressings absorb high amount of exudate and help remove devitalized tissue with its gelling technology. There are different sizes, ropes, and pads available.

Hydrocolloids

Hydrocolloids come in different shapes, sizes, and thickness. There are gels, powders, sheets, and wafers. Hydrocolloids promote autolytic debridement and provide a protective barrier.

Hydrogels

Hydrogel is used to donate moisture to a dry wound, promote autolysis, and enhance granulation formation. There are various forms such as gels, pads, impregnated gauzes, and sheets.

Medical Grade Honeys

Manuka honey or Leptospermum honey is the main component of these dressings. These dressings are an antimicrobial and is available in gel and alginates.

Silicone Gel Sheets

Silicone gel sheets are indicated for scars such as hypertrophic and keloids. They easily conform to the area.

Super Absorbents / Specialty Absorptives

SADs are comprised of multilayers of highly absorbent fibers. They are non-adherent and manage exudate. Moderate to heavy exuding wounds are indicated.

Transparent Films

Transparent films are convenient in monitoring wounds with a visual inspection. These dressings are semipermeable. Impermeable to liquid, water, and bacteria, but permeable to moisture vapor atmospheric gases. TFs are conformable and waterproof. Available in numerous sizes and cost effective.

Wound Fillers

Wound fillers help manage exudate and fill in dead space of deeper wounds. Fillers can be time released with antimicrobial properties, and are available in gels, pads, pastes, beads, strands, and pillows.