

PIN SITE CARE

Supplies

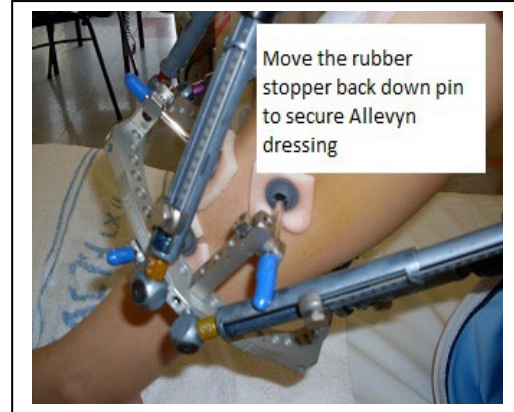
All pin site dressing supplies should be organised through the Appliance Centre, located, Level 2 in the main foyer. The nurse caring for your child should fill out an order form the day before discharge. The nurse will calculate the number of supplies you will need, when you require further supplies, these can be organised during your outpatient visits.

You will need to have these items before you are discharged from hospital.

- Sterile cotton buds, (only for a 2-week period, then you can purchase cotton buds from the supermarket)
- Foam Dressing: From Appliance Centre
- Gallipots: From Appliance Centre
- Normal Saline purchased at a pharmacy.
- A prescription for antibiotics from the doctor
- An appointment to see the doctor with x-ray request form.

Pin Site Dressing Instructions

1. Prepare shower. Not bath
2. Saturate the pieces of foam with warm water in the shower to enable their easy removal. Lift off clips/stoppers and remove the foam pieces. *Be careful not to pull or tear the skin.*
3. Gently dry skin around pin sites with a clean towel
4. Wash Hands with soap and water
5. Prepare equipment: Cut the foam to size. Foam sheets should be able to be cut into 12 pieces for pins and 16 pieces for wires. Pour saline into gallipots
6. Clean the skin around pin and/or wire with Normal Saline. **Use a new cotton tip applicator (cotton bud) for each pin or wire. DO NOT dip a dirty cotton tip into the saline solution.** Begin cleaning at the pin or wire, by pushing downward gently into the surrounding skin.
7. Use sterile cotton tip applicators for the first 2 weeks after surgery, after this time you can use cotton buds from the supermarket.
8. Place pieces of foam around the pin or wire. Place the clip/stopper on the pin or wire to hold the foam pieces against the skin with enough pressure to make a slight indentation in the foam. This helps to prevent infection and movement of the skin, as shown below.



9. Remember to discard **all** the foam pieces and replace with new ones.
10. **Foam pieces are used for the first 2 weeks following surgery. After this time foam pieces are only used for persistent pin site infections.**
11. Continue to clean the pin sites daily with normal saline until the device is removed. If your child is having Hydrotherapy, cleaning is not necessary.
12. *Pin site infections are very common with this procedure.* Should redness, pain, swelling, or discharge occur at the pin or wire site it may be infected. Contact the Clinical Nurse Consultant (9845 1028 or page 6191) or the Orthopaedic Registrar/Fellow Surgeon (through Switch 9845 0000) without delay if you are unsure. It is important to administer antibiotics to treat pin site infections. Ensure that you always have a prescription for antibiotics at home.

Action Plan

Use as a guide only

Appearance of Pin Sites		Action
Clean	⇒	Continue normal pin site care
Pain / redness	⇒	Continue pin site care with foam dressings
Pain / redness / clear fluid discharge	⇒	Chlorhexidine 0.1% can be used to clean around wires and pins. Apply the same way as the Normal Saline. You can obtain from Chlorhexidine 0.1% from a Chemist. Carefully watch pin sites over the next 24hrs
Pain / redness / purulent (creamy) fluid discharge. Fever	⇒	Commence oral antibiotics. Do pin site care as above. <u>Contact the hospital for further instructions</u>

Tips

- If the skin around the pin site is crusty, use the 'normal saline' to soften and remove the crusts.
- If the skin is growing up the pin, apply foam and press clip down to apply *slight* pressure. Also remember that downward pressure when cleaning pin sites will help to prevent this from occurring.

Contact Number

- Clinical Nurse Consultant, Orthopaedic Unit - 9845 1028 or page 6191