

PIN SITE CARE

Supplies

All pin site dressing supplies should be organised through Appliance Centre, located on level 2 in the main foyer. The nurse caring for your child should fill out an order form prior to discharge. 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.

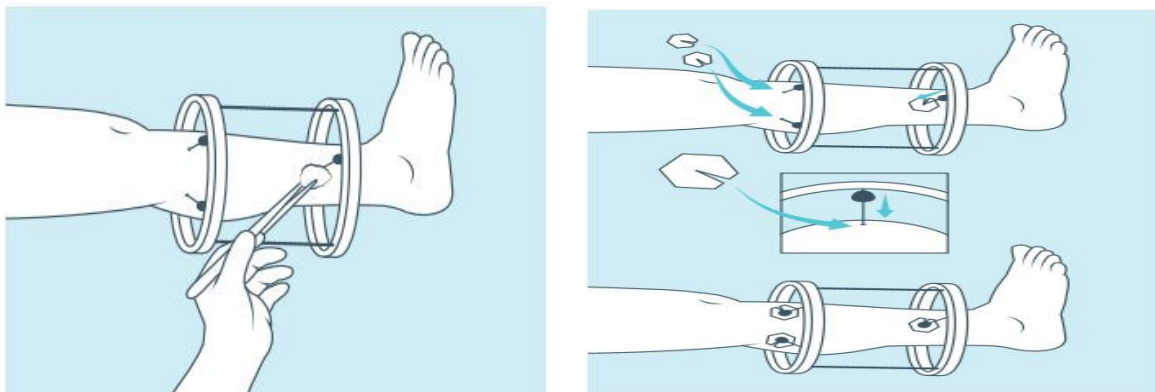
- A prescription for antibiotics from the doctor
- An appointment to see the doctor with x-ray request form
- Gallipot from appliance centre
- Normal saline purchased at pharmacy
- Foam dressing (ALLEVYN) from appliance centre
- Sterile cotton buds/cotton tips

If ACTICOAT EX-FIX (silver) dressing falls off prior to review in clinic contact Orthopaedic CNC on 98451028 to arrange appointment in clinic.

Pin Site Dressing Instructions:

After 3 weeks of surgery- attend to pin site care every 2-3 days.

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. Pour sterile water into gallipots.
6. Clean the skin around pin and/or wire with sterile water. **Use a new cotton tip applicator (cotton bud) for each pin or wire. DO NOT dip a dirty cotton tip into the sterile water.** Begin cleaning at the pin or wire, by pushing downward gently into the surrounding skin.
7. 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.



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8. Remember to discard **all** the foam pieces and replace with new ones.
9. ACTICOAT EX-FIX dressings are used for the first 3 weeks following surgery. After this time ACTICOAT EX-FIX are only used for persistent pin site infections, otherwise ALLEVYN (foam dressing) are used.
10. If pin site clean and dry, can stop dressings after 4 weeks. Can continue showering and hydrotherapy (chlorinated pool and saltwater is okay).
11. *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 the Orthopaedic Registrar/Fellow Surgeon (through Switch 9845 0000) without delay to determine whether antibiotics should be administered 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 sterile water. You can obtain Chlorhexidine 0.1% from a Chemist. Carefully watch pin sites over the next 24hrs
Pain / redness / purulent (creamy) fluid discharge. Fever	⇒	Commence oral antibiotics after consulting Orthopaedic CNC/Registrar. Do pin site care as above. <u>Contact the hospital for further instructions</u>

Tips

- If the skin around the pin site is crusty or has a scab forming, do not use force to remove, will come off in due time. Warm water can loosen this over time.
- 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 - 7825 1028 or switchboard on 7825 0000 to be connected to Orthopaedic Registrar.