

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

3M™ Tegaderm™ Matrix

About the dressing

1. Are there any allergens in Tegaderm Matrix dressing?

There are no common sensitisers in Tegaderm Matrix dressing and the dressing does NOT contain parabens, preservatives, paraffin and is latex free.

2. What percentage of PHI is there in a Tegaderm Matrix dressing?

There is a concentration of 0.5% PHI (Polyhydrated ionogens) in Tegaderm Matrix dressing. This was the concentration that was found to be most effective in healing models¹.

3. How much Zinc does Tegaderm Matrix dressing contain?

Zinc is one of the ions contained within the PHI ointment. It has a concentration of 0.01%.

4. How often should Tegaderm Matrix dressing be changed?

For optimum results daily dressing change is recommended². However, there is also evidence that shows that changing the dressing every 2-3³ days and even up to seven days (under compression)⁴ will show benefits in chronic static wounds.

5. Can several Tegaderm Matrix dressings be layered on top of each other?

This is not recommended and there is no evidence to suggest the use of layered Tegaderm Matrix dressings will provide extra patient benefit.

6. What is the maximum amount of Tegaderm Matrix dressing that can be used in a 24 hour period?

It has been calculated that 25 pieces of Tegaderm Matrix dressing 8 x 10 cm could be used to treat a wound daily. This would still be well within a maximum safe dose.

¹ Monroe S et al. 2005. Effect of Polyhydrated Ionogen (PHI) on Viability and Matrix Metalloproteinase Levels in Cultures of Normal and Diabetic Fibroblasts. Abstract Booklet WHS.Chicago

² Karim R,B. et al. 2006. MMP – 2 Assessment as an Indicator of Wound Healing: A Feasibility Study. Advances in Skin and Wound Care 19; 6: 324-327

³ Pirayesh A et al (2004) Efficacy of Polyhydrated Ionogens in Achieving Stable Wound Closure in Recalcitrant Diabetic Foot Ulcers: A Multicentre Pilot Study. Poster and Oral Presentation

⁴ Briggs S. 20005. Clinical Experience of a New Wound Dressing (Dermax PHI5) in the Local Treatment of Chronic Leg Ulcers. Abstract Booklet Wounds UK. Poster

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Indications for use

7. Can Tegaderm Matrix dressing be used on mixed aetiology leg ulcers?

The underlying cause of non-healing in these types of wounds is usually due to a reduction in blood supply and a lack of reduced compression. Addressing these underlying causes first may stimulate healing.

However, if the wound still fails to heal and there is no other underlying cause for the wound not healing, then Tegaderm Matrix dressing can be used. Tegaderm Matrix dressing has been used successfully in these wounds types.

8. Can Tegaderm Matrix dressing be used on critically colonised or infected wounds?

Use an antimicrobial dressing such as those containing silver or iodine before starting therapy with Tegaderm Matrix dressing.

9. Is Tegaderm Matrix dressing effective when used on hypergranulation tissue?

Tegaderm Matrix dressing is not indicated for use on hypergranulation tissue. Hypergranulation is often due to prolonged use of occlusive dressings and can be resolved by applying a foam adhesive. Alternatively some clinicians will apply a topical steroid to the tissue or in some cases silver nitrate 75%. These are the preferred options for treatment of hypergranulation tissue.

10. Can Tegaderm Matrix dressing be used for dialysis patients?

Tegaderm Matrix dressing can be used for dialysis patients as the quantities of ionic potassium are very low within the dressing and thus does not alter the blood chemistry.

11. Can you use Tegaderm Matrix dressing with fungating wounds?

Fungating wounds are caused by cancer not by a biochemical imbalance in the wound bed. Tegaderm Matrix dressing would not be indicated for this type of wound. Dressings most commonly used in these types of wounds are used purely for symptom control.

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Using Tegaderm Matrix dressing with other dressings

12. Can Tegaderm Matrix dressing be used with other dressings?

It can be used with inert secondary dressings which absorb fluid, however it is not indicated for use with other 'active' dressings like alginates, hydrogels, silver, iodine etc. as these dressings may alter the delivery of the ions to the wound bed and the effectiveness of the dressing.

13. What secondary dressings can be used with Tegaderm Matrix dressing?

To provide a moist wound healing environment a secondary dressing should be used with Tegaderm Matrix dressing. According to exudate levels choose between a Tegaderm film dressing for low to non exuding wounds, Tegaderm+Pad dressing for medium exuding wounds and Tegaderm foam dressing (adhesive or non-adhesive) for moderate to highly exuding wounds.

Note. Alginates are not recommended as the ionic exchange in these dressings may interact with the Tegaderm Matrix dressing.

14. Can Tegaderm Matrix dressing be used after using silver dressings?

Yes. With some silver dressings a black marking is apparent on the wound bed, which is the deposition of the silver. This is normal and will not affect the delivery of the Tegaderm Matrix dressing.

15. What are the recommended wound fillers in a cavity wound when using Tegaderm Matrix dressing?

Tegaderm Matrix dressing must always be in direct contact with the wound bed. The cavity can then be filled with gauze packing or a cavity dressing, covered by a secondary dressing. (link to separate question on secondary dressing)

16. Can Tegaderm Matrix dressing be used in conjunction with a hydrogel on a non woven dressing?

This combination of dressings will not normally be needed as a hydrogel is designed to be used as a primary dressing and to aid autolysis on sloughy and necrotic wounds.

17. Can Tegaderm Matrix dressing be used in conjunction with POSIFECT®?

There is no research with Tegaderm Matrix dressing being used in conjunction with POSIFECT®