

Frequently Asked Questions

I.V. Dressings

1. **Are there any problems with using antiseptic or antibiotic ointments on catheter sites dressed with 3M™ Tegaderm™ Film Dressing or 3M™ Tegaderm™ HP Dressing?**

Most ointments may be used under 3M™ Tegaderm™ Film Dressing without weakening or damaging the film. In common with some other higher Moisture Vapour Transmission Rate dressings, 3M™ Tegaderm™ HP Dressing is significantly weakened by ointments prepared using polyethylene glycol (or "Macrogol") bases. Examples include Bactroban™ Ointment and Betadine™ Ointment.

Bactroban is a trademark of SmithKline Beecham. Betadine is a trademark of SetonScholl Limited.

2. **Are gauze dressings "safer" than 3M™ Tegaderm™ Film Dressings?**

There is no clinical trial data to show that there is a greater infection risk or phlebitis risk when using 3M™ Tegaderm™ Film Dressings compared to using gauze and tape.

3. **What do you recommend for skin disinfection between 3M™ Tegaderm™ Film Dressing changes on I.V. puncture sites?**

3M™ Tegaderm™ Film Dressings may be used successfully with standard skin disinfectants such as Betadine™ or Chlorhexidine based skin disinfectants. A simple 70% alcohol swab has been shown to produce a fast but short activity bacterial kill.

Betadine is a trademark of SetonScholl Limited.

4. **How long should I leave between dressing changes on central lines?**

Our advice is that transparent dressings on central lines should be changed when the adhesion is compromised, if pooling of fluid occurs, every 5 to 7 days for intact dressings or according to your local hospital protocol.

5. **How do I use 3M™ Tegaderm™ Film Dressing on epidural catheter sites?**

3M™ Tegaderm™ Film Dressings 1627 (10 x 25cm) are often used to cover the exit site of an epidural catheter line from the skin. Some practitioners use extra dressings to secure the line up to the patient's shoulder whilst others prefer a tape such as 3M™ Medipore™ Surgical Tape to fix the line.