

3M™ Tegaderm™ Absorbent Clear Acrylic Dressing

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How is Tegaderm™ Absorbent dressing different from a hydrocolloid dressing?

A: The Tegaderm™ Absorbent dressing features a unique construction: two layers of breathable 3M Tegaderm™ film enclose a patented acrylic absorbent pad composed of a hydrophilic (water-loving) polymer. In contrast, hydrocolloids are mixtures of discrete absorbent particles, (e.g. carboxymethylcellulose), imbedded in an adhesive matrix. Hydrocolloids remain or become opaque with absorption of wound fluid, and in some cases they may break apart in the wound bed. The Tegaderm™ Absorbent dressing contains a single homogenous, hydrophilic polymer as the absorbent material rather than discrete particles. As a result, Tegaderm™ Absorbent dressing retains its integrity and clarity with the absorption of wound fluid.

Q: OK. So what's a polymer?

A: A polymer is a very large molecule made from smaller structural units called monomers. Polymers comprise a diverse group of synthetic chemical structures. Polymers can also be naturally occurring. Examples of common polymers include cotton, nylon and rubber. The 3M polymer is composed of three acrylic monomers, which, individually, have an affinity to water (are hydrophilic). During the process of polymerisation, the monomers form chemical bonds with neighbouring monomers. After polymerisation, the monomers stay in place because they have chemically combined and cross-linked with neighbouring monomers to make a viscous, high molecular weight polymer. The absorbent has been formulated to maintain its structural integrity when exposed to exudate.

Q: This dressing looks like a sheet hydrogel; how is it different?

A: Hydrogels are intended to hydrate wounds and must contain at least 50% water per the FDA definition. Tegaderm™ Absorbent dressing is anhydrous, i.e. it does not contain water and is intended to absorb drainage while maintaining a moist wound environment.

Q: How do I know what size to use?

A: For best results, select the smallest size that allows for 1cm overlap around the wound.

Q: How much drainage will the dressing absorb?

A: The dressing is intended to absorb minimal to moderate amounts of drainage. Due to the unique fluid handling properties of the absorbent acrylic pad and the breathable Tegaderm™ cover layer, the dressing is intended to manage drainage over several days. In some situations, the absorbent pad will detach from the layers of Tegaderm™ transparent film. This is normal. The dressing should be changed if excessive wrinkling is noted.

Q: Will I be able to assess the wound through the dressing?

A: If drainage is serous or clear, you will be able to observe the wound through the dressing, eliminating the need to remove the dressing. We recommend removing the dressing to perform a thorough wound assessment. If drainage is cloudy, you will see the drainage through the dressing.

Q: What if the wound has depth?

A: Wounds with depth and drainage may be filled with an absorbent filler such as 3M™ Tegaderm™ High Integrity Alginate Dressing.

Q: Can this dressing be used on infected wounds?

A: The dressing may be used on infected wounds under the care of a health care professional.

Q: Do Tegaderm™ Absorbent Dressings provide barrier protection against contamination, bacteria, and viruses?

A: Yes. Tegaderm™ Absorbent Dressings are constructed with a top layer of transparent film which when secured to the skin, provide a moisture vapour permeable barrier that prevents wound exudate strike-through and acts as a barrier to outside contamination, including bacteria and viruses.*

* *In vitro* testing shows that the transparent film of Tegaderm™ Dressings provides a viral barrier from viruses 27 nm in diameter or larger while the dressing remains intact without leakage. 3M Data available on file.



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