

## **3M™ Tegaderm™ High Performance Foam Adhesive Dressing Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q: How do Tegaderm™ High Performance Foam Adhesive Dressings reduce the potential for maceration?**

A: Inadequate management of wound exudate or moisture can result in periwound maceration. Maceration, a softening of the surrounding tissue, may cause an increased risk of infection and/or prolonged healing. The technology of Tegaderm™ High Performance Foam Adhesive Dressings is such that the management of moisture is ideal for low- to high-draining wounds. In high moisture wound environments there is rapid vertical wicking of wound exudate into the soft, absorbent foam layer and through to the second layer of the dressing. The second layer of the dressing, the high-capacity absorbent layer, absorbs and retains moisture away from the wound minimizing backward moisture migration. Distribution of exudate across the moisture control layer facilitates evaporation of moisture from the wound through the highly breathable top layer of Tegaderm™ film.

### **Q: How does the dressing prevent desiccation in low-draining wounds?**

A: In a low-exudating wound, the unique construction of Tegaderm™ High Performance Foam Adhesive Dressing limits the evaporation of moisture out of the dressing with its moisture control layer thereby helping to maintain a moist wound-healing environment, which is necessary for wound healing.

### **Q: Is the Moisture Control Layer gauze?**

A: No. The Moisture Control Layer may look like gauze; however it is an absorbent, non-woven material integrated with a unique technology to change the breathability of the Tegaderm™ film layer in the presence of moisture, to balance the moisture in the dressing and provide an optimal wound healing environment.

### **Q: Can Tegaderm™ High Performance Foam Adhesive Dressing be left on for seven (7) days?**

A: Yes. Tegaderm™ High Performance Foam Adhesive Dressing may be worn up to 7 days when clinically appropriate. As the dressing absorbs wound drainage, the exudate will wick toward the top layers of the dressing reducing the need for unnecessary dressing changes. Clinical testing results showed that Tegaderm™ High Performance Foam Adhesive Dressing has significantly higher fluid handling and wear time capabilities than six other adhesive foam dressings tested. Tegaderm™ High Performance Foam Adhesive Dressing will continue to provide total fluid management even when exudate has reached the outer edge of the foam pad.

**Q: When do I need to change Tegaderm™ High Performance Foam Adhesive Dressing?**

A: Indications to change the dressing include:

- a) Visible drainage under the adhesive border.
- b) The edges of the adhesive border are lifting and/or rolling.
- c) The dressing becomes loose, soiled or compromised in any way.
- d) Every seven (7) days or according to facility protocol.

**Q: Can Tegaderm™ High Performance Foam Adhesive Dressings be used with other products?**

A: Yes. Tegaderm™ High Performance Foam Adhesive Dressings may be used as a primary dressing or a secondary dressing with appropriate primary dressings such as 3M™ Tegaderm™ Ag Mesh Dressing with Silver, 3M™ Tegaderm™ Alginate Ag Silver Dressing, and 3M™ Tegaderm™ High Integrity or High Gelling Alginate Dressings. Tegaderm™ High Performance Foam Adhesive Dressings may also be used with 3M™ Coban™ 2 Layer Compression System and 3M™ Coban™ 2 Layer Lite Compression System. 3M™ Cavilon™ No Sing Barrier Film may be used to protect periwound skin from wound exudate or adhesives prior to dressing application.

**Q: Does Tegaderm™ High Performance Foam Adhesive Dressing minimize friction and shear from clothing, bedding and other surfaces?**

A: Yes. Tegaderm™ High Performance Foam Adhesive Dressings are constructed with a top layer of Tegaderm™ transparent film providing a low-friction backing which helps to minimize friction and shear forces to vulnerable body areas such as heels, the sacrum and coccyx, and bony areas on the spine.

**Q: Do Tegaderm™ High Performance Foam Adhesive Dressings provide barrier protection against contamination, including bacteria, and viruses?**

A: Yes. Tegaderm™ High Performance Foam Adhesive Dressings are constructed with a top layer of Tegaderm™ transparent film which when intact and secured to the skin, provides a barrier that allows skin to function normally, but prevents wound exudate strikethrough and acts as a barrier to outside contamination, including bacteria and viruses.\*

*\*In vitro* testing shows that the transparent film dressing provides a viral barrier from viruses 27nm in diameter or larger while the dressing remains intact without leakage.

**Q: Can Tegaderm™ High Performance Foam Adhesive Dressings be worn in the shower?**

A: Yes: The dressings provide a waterproof seal that allows for showering when the dressings are sealed and intact.

**Q: Can Tegaderm™ High Performance Foam Adhesive Dressings be used over infected wounds?**

A: Yes. Tegaderm™ High Performance Foam Adhesive Dressings may be used on infected wounds under the care of a health care professional. See package insert for additional information.

**Q: What is the best way to remove Tegaderm™ High Performance Foam Adhesive Dressings?**

A: Tegaderm™ High Performance Foam Adhesive Dressings can be gently removed using the following techniques:

- a) Gently lift the adhesive film border of the dressing while pressing down on the skin. If there is difficulty lifting the film border, apply tape to the edge of the dressing and use the tape to lift. Continue lifting the edges until all are free from the skin surface. Remove the dressing.
- b) Grasp one edge of the adhesive border and gently pull it straight out, parallel to the skin, to stretch and release adhesion, carefully holding onto the dressing with the other hand. By stretching the adhesive edge of the dressing, the material expands and releases. Continue with stretch and release of the adhesive edge until all edges are free from the skin surface. Remove the dressing slowly and pull carefully in the direction of hair growth. If necessary, press a small piece of tape onto the corner to start an edge of the dressing.

**Q: Can Tegaderm™ High Performance Foam Adhesive Dressings be used with hyperbaric treatments?**

A: While there are no current test standards to qualify materials for use in HBO chambers, 3M has worked with an outside professional testing company to identify suitable tests to evaluate the oxygen compatibility of select 3M skin and wound care products by determining the oxygen index (OI) of the products and the response of the products to oxygen exposure testing. Results of this testing support the conclusion that the 3M products tested did not show any evidence of increased flammability when compared to a suitable control material in high oxygen use environments.

**Q: Are there any precautions to consider before using Tegaderm™ High Performance Foam Adhesive Dressings?**

A: Do not use Tegaderm™ High Performance Foam Adhesive Dressings in combination with oxidizing agents such as hydrogen peroxide or hypochlorite solution. These solutions may affect the structure and performance of the polyurethane foam.

**Q: How is Tegaderm™ Foam Adhesive Dressing with Soft Cloth Border, Catalog #90615, different from the Tegaderm™ High Performance Foam Adhesive Dressings?**

A: The dressing with soft cloth border is different from the Tegaderm™ High Performance Foam Adhesive Dressings in that the border adhesive strips are *not waterproof*. The border adhesive tabs are perforated Tegaderm™ film reinforced with soft cloth tape to allow high exchange of both moisture and oxygen. The border adhesive was designed to minimize the potential for maceration.

The foam pad in the dressing does have a breathable film backing to maintain a moist wound environment, prevent exudate strikethrough and will act as a barrier to outside contamination through the foam pad.