

# 3M™ Tegaderm™ Absorbent Clear Acrylic Dressing

## Commonly Asked Questions

**Question:**

How is Tegaderm Absorbent dressing different from a hydrocolloid dressing?

**Answer:**

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.

**Question:**

OK. So what's a polymer?

**Answer:**

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 polymerization, the monomers form chemical bonds with neighboring monomers. After polymerization, the monomers stay in place because they have chemically combined and cross-linked with neighboring monomers to make a viscous, high molecular weight polymer. The absorbent has been formulated to maintain its structural integrity when exposed to exudate.

**Question:**

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

**Answer:**

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.

**Question:**

How do I know what size to use?

**Answer:**

For best results, select the smallest size that allows for 3/8 inch overlap around the wound.

**Question:**

How much drainage will the dressing absorb?

**Answer:**

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.

**Question:**

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

**Answer:**

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.

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**Question:**

Can this dressing be used on infected wounds?

**Answer:**

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

**Question:**

Will this dressing stick to the wound bed when I remove it?

**Answer:**

During its final evaluation and introduction, the dressing has been used on more than 200 patients. There have been no reports of the dressing adhering to the wound bed.

**Question:**

What if the wound has depth?

**Answer:**

Wounds with depth and drainage may be filled with an absorbent filler such as 3M™ Tegagen™ HI and HG Alginate Dressings.

**For More Information**

Contact your 3M Health Care Sales Representative, or call the 3M Health Care Customer Helpline at **1-800-228-3957**. These products can be ordered from your local distributor. Outside the United States, contact the local 3M subsidiary.



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