



Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust: Information for Families

Cleaning and dressing ulcerated haemangiomas

This information sheet explains how you can clean and dress an ulcerated haemangioma to promote healing and reduce pain. Brand names for certain dressings used at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) are mentioned in this information sheet – this does not constitute endorsement by GOSH and alternative dressings will be available.



Important

- Always have the dressing and cleaning solution prepared before removing the old dressing.
- When removing a dressing, do not remove it forcibly – soak it off gradually.
- If bleeding occurs at any time during a dressing change, apply pressure using a clean cloth for five minutes without looking and secure in place. If blood soaks through the cloth, do not remove it but add another cloth on top. Leave the cloth in place for 48 hours. If at all concerned, take your child to the nearest Accident and Emergency (A&E) department.

Dressing an ulcerated haemangioma on a limb or body

1. Collect together all the equipment you will need
 - Antimicrobial or antibiotic ointment
 - Non-adherent silicone dressing of appropriate size – such as Mepitel® or Adaptic®Touch
 - Alginate dressings or similar of appropriate size – such as Sorbsan®
 - Soft sterile gauze
 - Cotton bandages and adhesive tape – such as Mepitac®
 - Plaster tape – such as Elastoplast®
 - Cooled boiled water, saline solution or sterile water – do not use tap water
 - Oil based cleansing solution to use as a soak, pour or bath as required – such as Dermol® 600
 - Stretchy tubular bandage to secure dressing – such as Tubifast® - ready-made vests and balaclavas are available



2. Prepare the dressing by laying several pieces of gauze on a sterile surface – such as the inside of one of the dressings pack
3. Put a few drops of sterile water on the alginate dressing
4. Put the alginate dressing on top of the gauze
5. Open the non-adherent silicone dressing and cut to size
6. Remove the plastic covering on one side
7. Apply a layer of ointment large enough to cover the ulceration directly to the surface of the dressing
8. Remove the plastic covering on the other side and place dressing ointment side upwards on top of the alginate dressing
9. You should now have three different dressings layered together with the ointment side ready to put directly on the ulcerated area
10. Clean the ulcerated area with water or saline by pouring the solution slowly over the area
11. Alternatively, fill a baby bath with warm water and add the oil based cleansing solution according to the instructions on the bottle
12. Bathe your baby for 10 to 15 minutes allowing the dressing to soak off gently
13. If the dressing is stuck, soak it off gently – do not pull it off
14. When the dressing has been removed and the area has been soaked with the water, leave it to dry naturally – do not towel dry the ulcerated area
15. When the area is dry, apply the prepared dressing, making sure that the ointment is covering the ulceration
16. Secure the dressing in place using the cotton bandage and adhesive tape. Use the tubular bandage and tape to keep the dressing secure.

Dressing an ulcerated haemangioma in the nappy area

1. Collect together all the equipment you will need
 - Antimicrobial or antibiotic ointment
 - Non-adherent silicone dressing of appropriate size – such as Mepitel® or Adaptic®Touch
 - Alginate dressing – such as Sorbsan® - or similar of appropriate size
 - Soft sterile gauze
 - Cooled boiled water, saline solution or sterile water – do not use tap water – or saline solution
 - Oil based cleansing solution to use as a soak, pour or bath as required – such as Dermol® 600
 - Moisturising ointment – such as Diprobase® ointment – petroleum jelly – such as Vaseline®
2. Prepare the dressing by laying several pieces of gauze on a sterile surface – such as the inside of one of the dressings pack
3. Put a few drops of sterile water on the alginate dressing



4. Put the alginate dressing on top of the gauze
 5. Open the non-adherent silicone dressing and cut to size
 6. Remove the plastic covering on one side
 7. Apply a layer of ointment large enough to cover the ulceration directly to the surface of the dressing
 8. Remove the plastic covering on the other side and place dressing ointment side upwards on top of the alginate dressing
 9. You should now have three different dressings layered together with the ointment side ready to put directly on the ulcerated area
 10. Clean the ulcerated area with water or saline by pouring the solution slowly over the area
 11. Alternatively, fill a baby bath with warm water and add the oil based cleansing solution according to the instructions on the bottle
 12. Bathe your baby for 10 to 15 minutes allowing the dressing to soak off gently
 13. If the dressing is stuck, soak it off gently – do not pull it off
 14. When the dressing has been removed and the area has been soaked with the water, leave it to dry naturally – do not towel dry the ulcerated area
 15. When the area is dry, apply the prepared dressing, making sure that the ointment is covering the ulceration
 16. Put on a nappy to keep the dressing in place
- You will need to repeat this dressing twice a day. At nappy changes, if dressing is soiled, repeat above instructions but use moisturising ointment or petroleum jelly instead of the antimicrobial or antibiotic ointment.

Notes

**If you have any questions or concerns,
please call the Birthmark Unit on 020 7405 9200 extension 1113.**

Compiled by the Birthmark Unit and Interventional Radiology department
in collaboration with the Child and Family Information Group

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