

# Burns and wounds: How to care for your child's dressing



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[www.bcchildrens.ca](http://www.bcchildrens.ca)

Here is information about how you can help the healing process and what to expect.

## About Your Child's Acticoat Dressing

This type of dressing contains silver. It lowers the chance of infection and so may reduce scarring and speed up healing.

Because of the moisture and the silver in the dressing, it is not unusual for some dark coloured fluid to show through or leak out of the dressing.

These dressings can be left on for 3 to 7 days before they need to be changed.

## What You Can Do To Help Healing

Watch for signs of infection such as:

- A change in colour or an increase in fluid draining from the burn
- More redness at the edges of the dressing
- A bad smell
- Increasing pain
- Fever of 38.5 degrees C (101 degrees F) or higher, when your child does not have a cold, flu, or other infection that could cause the fever.

Encourage your child to eat a healthy well balanced diet. Sponge bath your child and be sure to keep the dressing *dry* and *clean*.

## Pain Management

You may give your child acetaminophen (e.g. Tylenol) and/or ibuprofen (e.g. Advil) for pain according to the directions on the bottle.

Please give your child pain medication at least one hour before the next dressing change.

## What to Expect Next

Your child's next dressing change will be at BC Children's Hospital on:

- 6East MedSurg    Medical Day Unit    Plastic Surgery Clinic

On the day of your appointment, please come to the information desk located in the main lobby of BC Children's Hospital for directions.

### ▶ 6East MedSurg Inpatient Unit Information

If your child's dressing change is scheduled to be done on a *Monday*, you will be contacted *Sunday* with information and details.

If your child's dressing change is scheduled to be done on a *Thursday*, you will be contacted *Wednesday* with information and details. If you do not hear from us, *please* call 604-875-2345 (Ext 8666 or Ext 8662)

### ▶ Medical Day Unit Information

If your child's next dressing is scheduled to be done on the Medical Day Unit, you will be contacted within *one business day* with details about your child's next dressing. If you do not hear from us, *please* call 604-875-3680 (Monday to Friday 7am-5pm)

### ▶ Plastics Clinic Information

If your child is to be seen in the Plastic Surgery Clinic, you will be given a business card or the phone number of the plastic surgeon who will be caring for your child. Please call the office for an appointment.