

PARTIAL THICKNESS WOUNDS

Wound Definition

Partial thickness skin loss involves the epidermis, dermis or both. It may be superficial and present as a shallow crater, abrasion or blister.

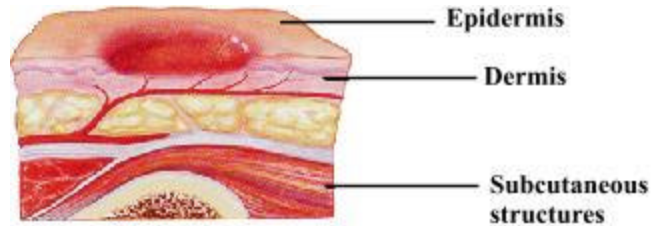


Photo: ©Wound Care Strategies, Inc., 1999

Goals

- Protect from moisture or contamination.
- Provide an optimal moist wound healing environment, adding moisture where necessary and controlling excess exudate.
- Prevent further injury.



Standard Treatment Protocols



Special Treatment Protocols



Prevention

Dressing Applications:

- ▶ [ULTEC PRO Hydrocolloid Dressing](#)
- ▶ [TELFA XTRA Island Dressing](#)
- ▶ [CURAFOAM PLUS Hydrophilic Foam Dressing](#)

NOTE: The procedures listed above are guidelines. They are not meant to replace any existing protocols or institutional policies. The dressings used on these pages may not be covered under current Medicare reimbursement guidelines. Contact your local Sales Representative for more information



PARTIAL THICKNESS WOUNDS

Standard Treatment Protocols:

Dressing choices for partial thickness wounds are primarily dependent on three factors:

- The presence of infection
- The presence of drainage
- The wound's location

Skin folds, incontinence, rubbing on the bed linens, and pressure when the patient is seated or lying in bed are all potential impediments to healing. For most wounds of this type which are dry or have minimal exudate, the dressing of choice is an ULTEC PRO Hydrocolloid Dressing. Generally, hydrocolloids are completely occlusive; they seal the wound area to keep moisture in and bacteria out. Hydrocolloids will absorb moderate amounts of exudate. This particular dressing is also specially shaped to conform to the sacral area and provide a more secure, comfortable fit.

[Back to Top](#)

PARTIAL THICKNESS WOUNDS

Special Treatment Protocols:

For a partial thickness wound in an area that will not be exposed to outside contaminants and is moderately exudating, a CURAFOAM PLUS Hydrophilic Foam Dressing with a fluid-proof backing is a good choice. This dressing will absorb moderate amounts of drainage and cushion the wound site. A secondary dressing will be needed to secure the primary dressing in place. If the wound is on an extremity, use a KERLIX Bandage Roll to secure and cushion. If the wound is not on an extremity, the CURAFOAM PLUS Dressing may be secured in a "window pane" fashion with TENDERFIX Cloth Tape.

For moderate to heavily exudating wounds, use a TELFA XTRA Nonadherent Composite Dressing. With a nonadherent layer against the wound, it will not disrupt wound healing at dressing changes and its highly absorbent inner layers will keep any excess exudate away from the skin. TELFA XTRA also contains a water-resistant backing to keep outside moisture from contaminating the wound. Some specific wound conditions may require other dressing choices.

For a partial thickness wound that is red, warm, or presents on a patient who has a history of infected skin tears, choose a non-occlusive dressing such as a XEROFLO Dressing. The dressing can then be secured with a TELFA Island Dressing with an adhesive border. If the wound presents on an extremity, you may choose to secure it with a KERLIX or CONFORM gauze bandage roll.

[Back to Top](#)



PARTIAL THICKNESS WOUNDS

Prevention:

The best way to treat a wound is to prevent it from ever occurring. Let the following guidelines assist you.

- Decrease or eliminate external pressures by
 - Employing pressure relief devices such as bed overlays or mattress replacement products and specialty beds and sealing devices
 - Cushioning bony prominences
 - Padding furniture
 - Turning the patient every one to two hours and utilizing positioning aids as needed
 - Teaching seated individuals to shift position every 15 minutes- Applying orthotics or appropriate footwear to reduce pressure and protect feet from cold or injury
 - Reducing moisture from incontinence or other sources
- Whenever possible, try to increase mobility in bed bound or chair bound patients by recommending physical therapy or restorative nursing for your patient.
- Also take care to reduce shear and friction:
 - Keep the head of the bed raised less than 30 degrees unless contraindicated.
 - Support the feet and legs whenever the head of the bed is elevated.
 - Always flatten the bed before repositioning, and
 - When moving a patient, use lifting devices, such as draw sheets, transport boards, gait belts and mechanical lifts. Do not drag your patient when repositioning.
- Be sure the patient is receiving adequate hydration and nutrition and address any underlying medical conditions that may contribute to wounding.

[Back to Top](#)

PARTIAL THICKNESS WOUNDS

Application:



ULTEC PRO Hydrocolloid Dressing

1. Choose an ULTEC PRO Dressing large enough to cover at least a 1" margin of intact skin around the wound.
2. Wash your hands and don gloves.
3. Cleanse the wound with normal saline or a commercial wound cleanser according to your institutional protocol.
4. Open the package, using aseptic technique. Reglove.
5. Following the application instructions described on the package, peel back and remove the paper backing.
6. Fit the dressing into a gluteal fold and smooth outward over the buttocks.

[Back to Top](#)



PARTIAL THICKNESS WOUNDS

Application:



TELFA XTRA Island Dressing

1. Choose the dressing size that most closely approximates the wound. Remember that a bordered island dressing should not be cut.
2. Wash your hands and don gloves.
3. Cleanse the wound with normal saline or a commercial wound cleanser according to your institutional protocol.
4. Open the package, using aseptic technique. Reglove.
5. Peel back and remove the paper backing.
6. Smooth the dressing over the skin.

[Back to Top](#)

PARTIAL THICKNESS WOUNDS

Application:



CURAFOAM PLUS Hydrophilic Foam Dressing

1. Choose the correct size dressing, remembering to allow at least a 1" margin of intact skin under the dressing.
2. Wash your hands and don gloves.
3. Cleanse the wound with normal saline or a commercial wound cleanser according to your institutional protocol.
4. Open the package, using aseptic technique. Reglove. CURAFOAM(r) PLUS Dressings may be cut to approximate the wound shape if desired.
5. Place the dressing over the wound.
6. Using strips of TENDERFIX Cloth Tape, secure the dressing to intact skin in a window pane around the dressing.

Dressings should be changed every three to seven days, or as needed, particularly if the dressing leaks or is clearly saturated.

[Back to Top](#)



Trademarks

Trademark	Owner
CONFORM	Tyco Healthcare Group LP
CURAFOAM	Beiersdorf AG
KERLIX	Tyco Healthcare Group LP
POLYSKIN	Tyco Healthcare Group LP
PREPIES	Tyco Healthcare Group LP
TEFLA XTRA	Tyco Healthcare Group LP
TENDERFIX	Tyco Healthcare Group LP
ULTEC	Sherwood Services AG
XEROFLOW	Sherwood Services AG