

Acticoat Dressing

What is Acticoat

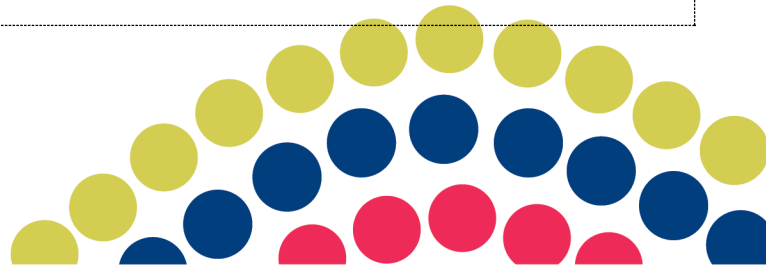
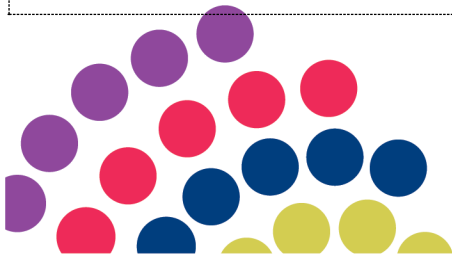
- > Acticoat is a silver dressing that provides an effective barrier to protect wounds and kill a broad spectrum of bacteria. It can be used on non-infected and infected superficial to full thickness burns or wounds.
- > Acticoat comes as a three day or seven day dressing. This indicates the number of days the dressing can stay on before it needs to be changed.
- > Acticoat is a blue/grey coloured dressing with impregnated silver in it and is usually covered with a product called hypafix; this is a white adhesive tape that sticks the Acticoat to the wound.
- > Acticoat needs to stay moist to remain active. To do this you will need to give your child a bath or shower once or twice a day, depending on the weather.

Daily maintenance

- > Clean the bath well and make sure you bath your child on their own.
- > Do not leave your child in the bath or shower for too long, just enough time to wet the dressing.
- > Remove your child from the bath or shower and pat dry the dressings.
- > The dressings will remain moist under the hypafix.
- > Reinforce any of the hypafix if required.
- > If you have been given tubigrip stockings or vests remove for bathing and replace with clean ones daily (handwash with soap and water).
- > You can now dress your child normally.

Care of the dressing

- > Try not to allow the dressing to become dirty, or wet apart from the bath.
- > Your child should not play in sand or dirt as this may get into the burn dressing, causing infection.
- > Your child must not swim in pools or at the beach.
- > Your child may find that their clothes get wet from the dressing. You may therefore need to change their clothes more frequently.
- > The hypafix may become a stained brown colour over the duration of the dressing. This colour change is acceptable.



For more information

Burns and Plastics Services
 Women's and Children's Hospital
 72 King William Rd, North Adelaide SA 5006
 Telephone (08) 8161 7000



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This document has been reviewed
 and endorsed by WCHN consumers



Government of South Australia

Women's and Children's
 Health Network

Pain relief

- > Simple over-the-counter pain medications such as Ibuprofen (Brufen®/Nurofen®) or Paracetamol (Panamax®/Panadol®/ Dymadon®) can be used for pain and discomfort.
- > Elevation of affected area will also assist (limbs placed on pillows).

Itching

- > Itching can be part of the healing process.
- > If itching is bothering your child an antihistamine such as Cetirizine (Zyrtec®) can help (over the counter).

Preparation for follow – up appointment

- > Read through [Words I can use to help my child during a procedure](#) Consumer Health Information to assist you in preparing your child for a dressing change.
- > Apply olive oil/vegetable oil to the white tape (Hypafix) one hour before the appointment and wrap the area in cling film. This will assist with removal of the dressing at your appointment.
- > Give your child a dose of Paracetamol or Ibuprofen one hour prior to the appointment. This will help to reduce the discomfort.

Outpatients Clinics

Burns

Tuesday and Friday – Paediatric Outpatient Department Area 3

Wednesday – Fracture Clinic on the Ground Floor

Day cases – Day Surgery 3rd Floor Good Friday Building

Plastics

Monday and Thursday - Paediatric Outpatient Department Area 2

Wednesday dressing clinic Paediatric Outpatient Department Area 2

Friday - Paediatric Outpatient Department Area 2

If you are concerned about any of the following please bring your child in to the WCH Paediatric Emergency Department or to your nearest Emergency Department/GP:

Burns patients can contact the Burns Nurse Consultant during office hours on (08) 8161 7000

- > If the bandage becomes loose or falls off
- > If the bandage becomes very smelly
- > If your child is extremely itchy or uncomfortable (not relieved by simple pain relief or anti – itch medications)
- > If the dressing has any ooze on it i.e. green/yellow or blood stained.

If you are concerned about any of the following bring your child in to WCH Paediatric Emergency Department or to your nearest Emergency Department/GP:

If your child develops or shows signs of:

- > Fever (over 38.5)
- > Vomiting or diarrhoea
- > Rash
- > Irritability/drowsiness
- > Poor feeding
- > Disinterest in surrounding

