

Facial burn care

Dressings are difficult to keep on the face however the aim is to keep the face moist, free of infection and comfortable. The cleansing and applying of paraffin ointment are to be done regularly throughout the day.

Dressing requirements

- > Gauze swabs
- > White soft paraffin
- > Saline solution

Procedure

1. Administer pain medication if necessary and allow time to take effect
2. Wash your hands
3. Cleanse face using gauze swabs and normal saline, gently removing paraffin build up, slough and remove any loose skin. This will need to be done at least twice a day and in between these times if the face is dry or itchy.
4. If an area is hard to clean a medisponge® may be used but not near the eyes. Your nurse will discuss this with you.
5. Wash your child's hair once a day
6. Apply a thin layer of paraffin to burnt skin
7. Wash your hands

Elevating your child's head with pillows when in bed will prevent or lessen facial swelling. Your

nurse will discuss this with you, especially if your child under two years of age.

Change your child's pillow case each day

If the eyes are affected gently clean the eyes with saline soaked gauze. An antibiotic cream may be prescribed for this area.

For assistance

Please contact the Burns Nurse via the Women's and Children's Hospital (WCH) switchboard on (08) 8161 7000 if any of the following happens or if you have any concerns.

- > Increased pain
- > Increased redness
- > Increased swelling around the face or eyes
- > Severe itching
- > Yellow/greenish discharge – which will probably smell or
- > If your child is extremely itchy or uncomfortable.

If your child develops or shows signs of:

- > Fever
- > Vomiting or diarrhoea
- > Rash
- > Irritability/drowsiness
- > Poor feeding
- > Disinterest in surrounding

They must be examined either at the Emergency Department at the WCH or by your local doctor.

Your next appointment

Your next appointment will be

On _____

At _____

In _____

If you cannot keep the appointment, please phone the Burns Nurse via the Hospital switchboard on (08) 8161 7000.

Please give your child a dose of Paracetamol one hour prior to the appointment. This will help to reduce any discomfort.

Day Surgery

3rd floor, Good Friday Building

Burns dressing clinics

Outpatient Department,

1st floor, Rogerson Building,

> Tuesday – Area 3

Wednesday – Fracture Clinic, ground floor

> Friday – Area 2

Facial Burn Care

For more information

**Women's and Children's Hospital
Burns Service**

**3rd floor Good Friday Building
72 King William Road
North Adelaide SA 5006
Telephone: 8161 7000**

**www.wch.sa.gov.au - Refer to
Guidelines for the Management of
Paediatric Burns - Burn Service**

Non-English speaking: for information in languages other than English, call the interpreting and Translating Centre and ask them to call Department of Health. This service is available at no cost to you, contact (08) 8226 1990.

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