

A patient's guide to AQUACEL® Surgical cover dressing.

After your procedure, the dressing that has been applied to manage your incision is AQUACEL® Surgical cover dressing.

The dressing is composed of Hydrofiber® and Hydrocolloid, the dressing is soft, conformable¹ and waterproof².

This cover dressing is flexible, aiding mobility and flexion of the area covered. Because it is waterproof and both virus & bacteria-proof, it protects your incision from infection whilst healing, and it allows you to shower². It also absorbs any post-operative bleeding or oozing from the incision while it heals, **bleeding and oozing is part of normal process for your wound to heal.**

The dressing is purposefully designed to absorb the fluid from the incision, and vertically pull this fluid to the top of the dressing and keep it away from your skin. The dressing may expand slightly, caused by the gelling action of the AQUACEL® layer on contact with fluid and blood from your incision².

This dressing is **designed to stay in place and reduce risk of infection**, rather than it being removed unnecessarily which can increase risk of infection. Please see photos below to show when the dressing is okay to stay in place and when you should contact your healthcare professional.

Dressing change as per the instructions for use.



If your dressing looks like this and remains like this – it **does not require changing**.



If your dressing looks like this - the fluid has increased from the previous day, **seek advice** from your healthcare professional.



If your dressing looks like this - the fluid has breached the border and the dressing **will require changing**.

AQUACEL® Surgical Patient's Guide

Reasons you should contact the hospital for advice regarding your wound:

The wound fluid oozes outside of the dressing border

The skin around the wound becomes red spreading outwards and is constantly hot

You experience unusual pain or odour

The wound dressing has moved and the wound is visible

When should my dressing be changed?

If your dressing becomes soaked and/or leakage occurs before the scheduled dressing change, contact Orthopaedics Practitioner Helpline and we will arrange an appointment for the dressing change to take place sooner.

Important reminder

For maximum effectiveness the dressing MUST STAY in place.

DO NOT BE TEMPTED TO REMOVE the dressing before your appointment.

Contact Information

If you have any concerns regarding your wound please contact the Orthopaedics Practitioner helpline as your first point of call.

Our contact number for 01257 256372

Opening hours Mon-Fri 08.00-16.00

Out of hours: please contact discharging ward for advice. Attend your local walk-in center or A&E for any urgent concerns.

Ward Numbers are

Orthopaedic Admissions Unit (OAU): 01257 256219

Ward D: 01257 256269

Ward A: 01257 256276

Ward B: 01257 256277

John Charnley Unit: 01257 256265/256267

