

Port Pocket Wound Care Instructions

This handout explains how to care for your port pocket wound and when to call your care team.

Why is my wound open and how long will it take to heal?

When your port gets infected, it must be removed. The infected wound cannot be closed with stitches and must be left open so it can heal. It will take 4 weeks or longer to heal.

Changing Your Dressing

You will need to change the *dressing* (bandage) every 2 to 3 days. It is important to keep the dressing dry between changes.

Where do I get supplies for the dressing changes?

On the day your port is removed, the Procedure Suite staff will give you supplies to use for the first week. After that, you will meet with your care team or a wound specialist to check how the area is healing. During that appointment, they can give you more supplies or order them from a supply company to be delivered to your home.

What supplies do I need for each dressing change?

You will need:

- 4 x 4-inch Mepilex dressing
- Aquacel® Ag Ribbon Dressing
- Tweezers
- Scissors
- 5mL or 10mL syringe and saline (optional)

Instructions

1. Wash your hands.
2. Set your supplies on a clean surface.
3. Remove the old dressing. Pull the entire ribbon out of the wound. It will be gooey and sticky but will come out in 1 piece.

Note: Before you throw away the old dressing, make a note of how long the ribbon is that was just removed. You will need to cut the new ribbon to about the same length.

4. Wash your hands again.



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this handout.

5. Clean your wound. You can:
 - Take a shower and let the water run over the wound, **OR**
 - *Flush* (rinse) it out gently with a syringe filled with normal saline.
6. Check your wound for any problems. See “When to Call Your Care Team” below.
7. Cut a piece of Aquacel® Ag ribbon dressing about the same size as what was removed from the wound.
8. Use tweezers to gently and loosely fill the wound with the Aquacel® Ag ribbon dressing. Do **not** get the ribbon wet before putting it in the wound.
9. Place the dressing over the wound.

When to Call Your Care Team

Call your care team if:

- You have fever, chills, weakness, confusion, or a fast heartbeat
- You have worse pain at the wound site
- You have worse redness, warmth, or swelling of the skin around the wound
- You notice more pus or other types of *drainage* (fluid)
- The wound looks dried-out (there is no drainage from the wound and the inside looks dry)
- The wound smells bad
- You forgot or are not sure how to change your dressing

When to make your follow-up appointment

Before or soon after your port is removed, contact your *Patient Service Representative* (PSR, or scheduler). They will schedule your follow-up appointment with the wound-care nurse. Please make your follow-up appointment for 5 to 7 days after your procedure.

During this appointment, the wound-care nurse will make sure your wound is healing as expected and give you more supplies if you need them.

Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or healthcare provider if you have questions or concerns.

University of Washington Medical Center and Northwest Hospital: Weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., call the Interventional Radiology Department at 206.598.6209.