



# Pin Site Cleaning

## The aim of pin-site care is to:

- Prevent any potential infection
- Prevent overgrowth of tissue/skin from around the pin

Shower with your frame covered (e.g. in a bin liner). On the day of changing the dressing, shower with your old dressing in place, cleaning the frame using a tooth brush or bottle brush. Dry with a clean towel and change the dressing as per the protocol below.

## You will need:

- 1 dressing pack
- Extra sponge sticks
- 3-4 packs of gauze swabs
- 2 packs of Allevyn 10x20cm
- Pink Chlorhexidine 0.5% (N.B. n/saline in young children)
- Sterile scissors
- Antibacterial hand-rub

## Instructions

1. Wash your hands with soap and water
2. Clean hands with antibacterial hand-rub
3. Open dressing pack and set out equipment using forceps
4. Fill large tray with pink Chlorhexidine/ Normal Saline
5. Clean hands with antibacterial hand-rub
6. Using gauze swabs, clean the limb with Chlorhexidine/ Normal Saline
7. Push wire clips up wire pin
8. Remove and discard old dressings in bag provided
9. Clean hands with antibacterial hand-rub
10. Clean pin-sites individually using sponge sticks & Chlorhexidine/ Normal Saline.

Cleaning in one direction & using all sides of the stick

11. Ensure that tissue can move freely around pin (if necessary remove crusts with forceps)
12. Cut Allevyn using forceps to hold it. Rough guide = 7 lengthways & 3 width ways i.e. 21 squares
13. Cut Allevyn into keyhole dressing (like shorts)
14. Cover pin sites with 2 layers of Allevyn
15. Push down wire clips ensuring slit of clip faces a different direction to slit of Allevyn & apply pressure but beware of creating a pressure sore
16. Dispose contents of dressing pack and sharps safely
17. On discharge you will be given a date and time for the following week to attend clinic, this will be for the next pin site cleaning. You will also be given a two week outpatient appointment, while you are here we will assess the pins and redness of the pin sites.

Change dressings in this way every 7 days unless you experience:

- Pain, redness or yellow / green discharge from around the pin-site
- Flu-like symptoms

If you do, clean daily and contact the ward and your own GP as you could have an infection which may require treatment.

## For more information contact:

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