

Biobrane™ dressing



Information for patients

What is BIOBRANETM (and why has it been applied)?

BIOBRANE is a flexible “temporary skin cover” used to protect the wound and help it to heal. It allows the body to believe the skin is not damaged.

BIOBRANE has been shown to reduce the pain and discomfort felt when the skin is scalded (and reduce painful dressing changes) and may lead to a reduction in scarring.

After thoroughly cleaning the wound, BIOBRANE can be applied either under general anaesthetic, sedation or using simple oral analgesia such as Entonox (gas & air). The Burns Team will discuss BIOBRANE application options with you. BIOBRANE is held in place with a special glue and the glue can be seen as crusty blue blobs. An outer dressing may be applied to protect the BIOBRANE. This should stay in place until the initial wound check at about 48hrs, unless there are any concerns before that time.

How long does BIOBRANE stay in place?

BIOBRANE will normally stay in place until the burn heals. This can take up to 14 days. As the wound heals, the BIOBRANE will begin to lift and will be trimmed with clean scissors. Any healed areas should be massaged with simple non perfumed moisturising cream. The nurses will advise you when you can help with this.

Please do not lift off or trim any BIOBRANE that is still adherent to the unhealed skin as this may damage underlying wound structures. If you are unsure of the management of BIOBRANE, please contact the adult burns 24 hour help line 0117 3403932.

If after 2 weeks the burn has not healed, an alternative treatment may be needed. The Burns Team will discuss options with you.

Can I wash with BIOBRANETM in place?

Washing Advice:

The burns team will advise you when you can have a gentle shower or quick/shallow bath, but you should not immerse the BIOBRANE for more than a few minutes. This will usually be 3-5 days after the BIOBRANE was applied. Dry the BIOBRANE by gentle patting, using a clean towel. Reapply protective dressings over the BIOBRANE (if required) as directed by the nurses in the Adult Burns clinic.

Aftercare

Once the wound has healed and the BIOBRANE has either fallen off or been removed, the burn area will continue to look red and inflamed. This is perfectly normal and will gradually fade over several months. The new skin must be kept clean and creamed with a simple non perfumed moisturising cream at least twice a day. You will be shown how to do this at the adult burns clinic.

Any areas of the burnt skin that do not heal within 14 days may be at risk of developing scarring. Twice daily application of non-perfumed simple moisturising cream can help to improve this along with other treatments, including the use of silicone gels and pressure garments. The burns team will advise you on the appropriate treatment.

It is very important that the healed burn area is protected from the sun for at least 2 years or 2 summers, both with a high factor sun protection cream 30 plus or sun block (with UVA & UVB) and sun protective clothing. This reduces the risk of further damage and permanent tanning.

What problems or concerns should I look out for?

You will be advised of what signs and symptoms to look out for prior to discharge home. Always ring the ward if you have any concerns.

It looks 'mucky' underneath the BIOBRANE or the Biobrane is lifting.

You should ring the Adult Burns Unit Helpline for advice. You may need to come back for the Burns Team to assess the wound.

The wound smells

This may be normal, but if you encounter any problems or concerns please phone the Adult Burns Unit as you may need to return for further assessment by the adult burns team.

Do not remove the BIOBRANE yourself unless instructed to do so.

References Biobrane Biosynthetic Wound Dressing

<http://wound.smithnephew.com/uk/node.asp?NodeId=3562> [Last Accessed July 2013]

Contact details

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