

## Pin Site Care (External Fixator or Ilizarov Device)

Clean the pin sites at least 2 times a day, or as needed to help keep them clean and free of infection.

### How do I do pin site care?

Gather these supplies:

- Antibacterial liquid soap such as Dial™.
- Extra soft toothbrush. Start with a new toothbrush and use it only for pin site care.
- Cotton swabs such as Q-Tips™.
- Bactroban® ointment.
- Split gauze.



External fixator



Ilizarov Device

Start pin site care on the third day after your child goes home from the hospital. **Do these cares two times each day. Follow these steps each time:**

1. Wash your hands with soap and water.
2. Wash your child's arm or leg with the liquid antibacterial soap. Your child may take a shower using the same soap instead.
3. If pin sites are crusty, use the extra soft toothbrush to clean gently around the pins or wires.
4. Rinse the soap from the pin site area with water. Let the area air dry.
5. Put Bactroban® ointment on with a clean cotton swab. Put it on each pin or wire site.
6. If pin sites are draining or oozing, use the split gauze as a dressing around the pin or wires. If there is no draining or oozing, leave the pin or wire sites open to air.
7. Wash your hands with soap and water.

### Special directions

When cleaning the pin or wire sites, look for signs of infection:

- More redness or swelling of the skin around the pins or wires.
- Drainage from the pins or wires that does not go away and is more than the size of a quarter (25¢ coin) on the dressing.
- More crusting or pulling up of the skin (tenting) around the pins or wires.
- Pain at the pin site that does not go away or gets worse.
- A temperature of 101.5° F (38.3° C) or more that is not caused by another illness.

**ALERT:** Call your child's doctor, nurse, or clinic if you have any questions or concerns or if your child:

- Shows any signs of infection.
- Has special health care needs that were not covered by this information.

**This teaching sheet is meant to help you care for your child. It does not take the place of medical care. Talk with your healthcare provider for diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up.**