

Posterior Spinal Fusion: Wound Care

After surgery, it is important to take care of the wound area. Keep it clean to prevent infection and help it to heal. The dressing will be changed before leaving the hospital. You will need to check it a few times each day. If the edges of the Aquacel Ag dressing are rolling up, unroll it. Put Tegaderm over the edges to keep it from rolling.

Change the dressing **only** if one half ($\frac{1}{2}$) or more of it is covered with drainage. If the dressing is okay it does not need to be changed until the next clinic visit.



Dressing is ok; does not need to be changed.

If you need to change the dressing, look for these signs of infection:

- More redness or swelling of the wound or skin near the wound.
- Drainage from the wound that wets the dressing in a 24-hour period.
- Pain at the wound site after 7 to 10 days from the time your child left the hospital.
- Fever of 101.50F (38.30C) or higher that is not caused by any other illness.

Call your child's doctor if there are any of these signs of infection.

Supplies for changing the dressing, if needed:

- 3" x 3" or 4" x 4" gauze.
- Any medical tape.

You can buy these supplies at any drug store.

To change the dressing:

1. Wash your hands with soap and water.
2. Press down on the skin with one hand and carefully lift the edge of the bandage with the other hand.
3. Stretch the dressing to release the seal. Continue to use this taffy pull method to remove the entire bandage. Throw it away.
4. Check the wound for redness, drainage or any of the other signs of infection listed above.
5. Wash your hands again with soap and water.
6. Cover the wound with gauze and tape.
7. Make an appointment to have the wound checked and a new dressing put on. Call the ortho clinic RN line 414-266-2411.
8. Wash your hands after the changing the dressing.



Dressing needs to be changed.

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