Burns: Home Care Using a Skin-like Dressing

What is a skin-like dressing?
A skin-like dressing acts like skin on burns. It is used as a temporary covering until the skin heals. Your child has this type of dressing on their burn wound.
This dressing will help your child's burn heal more quickly. It also will help decrease pain during dressing changes.

How should I care for the burn with the dressing?
It is important to check the dressing every day to make sure it is still attached to your child's skin. Follow these directions for care:

1. Wash your hands with soap and water.
2. Take off the outer layer of dressing as directed by your child's doctor or nurse. If it is stuck, trim the dressing as close to the wound area as possible.
3. Look at the dressing. If it is still stuck to the wound, rewrap it with a new dressing. The nurse will show you how to do this.
   - The outer wrap protects the dressing from getting caught on clothes. It also keeps your child from picking at it. If your child has a burn on the face or diaper area, an outer wrap is not used.
   - The first few days after it is put on, the dressing will go from moist and clear to dry and crusty. You may also see yellow or cloudy colors showing through the dressing. This is normal. Clear drainage from the burn is also normal.
4. If large bubbles are present, cut a small slit into the biologic dressing. Flatten the bubble and rewrap the outer dressing.
5. When the dressing seems dry and the edges begin to peel, it means the burn is healing.
6. **Keep all the dressings dry.** Dressings may need to be changed more often if they get wet or dirty.
7. Put splints back on if they are ordered.

**ALERT:** Call your child’s doctor or burn clinic if you have any questions or concerns or if:

- The dressing slips or slides when touched,
- You notice any green, foul smelling drainage. These could be signs of infection.
- 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.