



# POSTOPERATIVE ABSORBENT DRESSING

An absorbent postoperative dressing will be applied to your surgical wound before you leave the operating suite.

## PURPOSE OF THE DRESSING

This dressing, consisting of an adhesive border and foam, has important functions:

- It absorbs discharge.
- It is impermeable to external microorganisms.
- It creates a protective barrier.
- It maintains a controlled environment to promote healing.
- It is flexible and adapts to your body's movements.



## AT HOME

You have to monitor the dressing for every day. It must not become totally saturated with discharge. Any discharge must be contained within the centre of the dressing without touching the adhesive border.

If the dressing needs to be changed due to excessive discharge, contact the nurses at the CLSC.

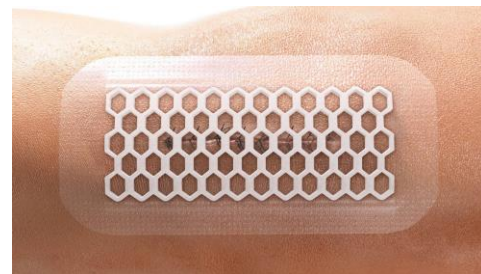
**SHOWERING IS ALLOWED ONLY IF THE DRESSING ADHERES FULLY TO YOUR SKIN.**

## WHEN AND HOW REMOVING ABSORBENT POSTOPERATIVE DRESSING (OPSITE® POST-OP VISIBLE)

Observe dressing saturation. If there has been no progress in the discharge for at least 48 hours, you can remove the dressing yourself.

If you prefer, or if the discharge persists, keep the dressing in place until your visit to the CLSC where the nurse will remove the dressing and staples (maximum 10 days).

1. Lift one corner of the dressing.
2. Pull gently in the opposite direction.
3. Release.
4. Repeat these steps along the edge of the dressing until the adhesive is soft and the dressing can be easily removed.
5. Dispose of the dressing.



*This dressing has a honeycomb pad with a transparent film around the edges.*

## **WHEN AND HOW REMOVING ABSORBENT DRESSING WITH SILVER (AQUACEL® AG SURGICAL)**

Observe the saturation of the dressing. You can remove the dressing yourself on the 7th day after your surgery.

If you prefer, or if the discharge persists, keep the dressing in place until your visit to the CLSC where the nurse will remove the dressing and staples (maximum 10 days).

1. Press lightly down on the skin with one hand to hold the skin in place. Gently lift an edge of the dressing with the other hand.
2. Stretch the dressing in the opposite direction to break the adhesive seal.
3. Work your way around the dressing with the above technique until it comes off.
4. Dispose of the dressing.

### **Call your surgeon or go to an emergency room:**

- If you have a temperature (over 38.5 °C).
- If the wound shows signs of redness, heat, or induration (hardening).
- If there's a foul-smelling discharge.
- If you have acute pain at the wound site.



*This bandage is beige without a honeycomb structure (it is "solid").*

**Questions or doubts? Call 811 (Info-Santé, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week) or call the nurse at your CLSC.**

#### **Author**

Ostomy Therapy Team  
Direction des soins infirmiers

#### **Revision and Layout**

Service des communications  
Direction des ressources humaines, des communications et des affaires juridiques

© Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux de l'Estrie – Centre hospitalier universitaire de Sherbrooke, 2023

[santeestrie.qc.ca](http://santeestrie.qc.ca)

June 2023 - 4-6-10585 (French version) | 4-6-10586 (English version)

**Centre intégré  
universitaire de santé  
et de services sociaux  
de l'Estrie – Centre  
hospitalier universitaire  
de Sherbrooke**

