

Vanderbilt Burn Center

Biobrane instructions

Biobrane is a white stretchable dressing that you can see through. It is commonly used on donor sites if you have had a skin graft. It sticks to the wound and stays there until the wound is healed. Biobrane acts as artificial skin, and protects your wound while it heals. You may do your normal activities with Biobrane on your wound.

A nurse or doctor will place the Biobrane on a clean wound or donor site. It is wrapped with a gauze dressing and ace wrap. This type of dressing is often seen after surgery and referred to as a “Burn Pack”, which will stay on for 48-72 hours.

When the outer dressing is taken off, the Biobrane should be stuck to the wound. If the Biobrane has stuck, it will not need further dressing changes. If it did not stick, your nurse or Burn care specialist will remove the Biobrane and a different dressing will be put on your wound. This is done only with attending physician order; **it is not a set protocol.**

During the first few days, fluid from your wound will drain through the Biobrane. This is normal. As your wound heals, the Biobrane will look dry, crusty, and begin to itch. As the skin under the Biobrane heals, the Biobrane will begin to lift at the edges. This usually happens in 7- 14 days after the Biobrane was put on. Once the Biobrane is removed, the wound will be pink or dark red with white flaky areas. Over time, the pink color will fade.

Care of Biobrane Dressing:

1. Shower daily using non-perfumed liquids or bar soap and 2 wash cloths.

Use one washcloth to wash from head to toes. Clean your genitals last.

Use the second washcloth to gently wash the Biobrane. Do not scrub it.

Rinse well

2. Dry yourself and pat the Biobrane dry with a towel. You may use a blow dryer Set on cool to blow-dry the Biobrane.
3. If fluid collects underneath the Biobrane you will remove it. Make a small opening in the Biobrane, using a Q-tip lay it flat on the wound and roll it to the opening. Pat the area dry and use the blow dryer to dry the area.

Checking for signs of infection:

- Skin around the wound is more red, swollen, and feels hot
- Fluid builds up under the Biobrane
- Wound smells bad
- Pus drainage
- Other signs of infection include temperature above 101.5 degrees and increasing pain.

As your wound heals, trim the loose edges

- Use scissors that have been cleaned with alcohol
- Lift the edge of the dressing with your fingers and trim with scissors
- Stop trimming if you are causing bleeding as you lift the Biobrane
- Stop trimming if it is painful
- Apply lotion or moisturizing cream to the areas you have trimmed off the Biobrane
- It is not necessary to cover Biobrane with other dressings. Biobrane sticks to the wound, so you do not have to worry that it will fall off. You may go about your normal activities.

Call your doctor if you have:

- Signs of infection
- Fluid build up under the Biobrane
- Any questions or concerns

Nursing:

If purulent drainage is found under Biobrane, window areas and apply acticoat to opened areas and wrap with kerlex