WET TO DRY GAUZE DRESSING

Wet to Dry gauze dressings are generally used to remove drainage and dead tissue from the wound. If the wound is deep or has spaces that open under the skin or tunnel in the wound, the gauze dressing will need to be put into those spaces as well. This is called packing and it helps keep the space drain and allows it to heal from the inside out. Without the packing, the space may close off to form a pocket and not heal.

The dressing will need to be changed:

- Every ______ hours
- When it comes loose, gets dirty, or you can see wound drainage on the outer dressing

STEPS TO FOLLOW

1. Wash your hands with warm water and soap for at least 15 seconds. Rinse with warm water and towel dry.
2. Gather your supplies:
   - Non sterile gloves
   - Gauze to place in wound
   - Dressing to cover gauze
   - Tape
   - Plastic trash bag
   - Scissors if needed
   - Normal saline
3. Put on gloves.
4. Remove your old dressing. Place the old dressing and packing in the plastic trash bag.
5. Remove your gloves and throw them in the plastic trash bag.
6. Wash your hands again.
7. Gently clean the wound with a washcloth, warm water and soap. Rinse with water and pat dry with a clean towel. If your wound starts to bleed, you are washing too hard.
8. If you are to use saline or other solution for cleansing, pour some solution on a gauze pad and wipe wound gently or use a squirt bottle or syringe with solution to clean wound.

9. Check the wound for signs of infection. Call your doctor or nurse if you have:
   - Skin around the wound is more red, swollen, or feels hot
   - Wound smells bad
   - Pus drainage
   - Temperature above 101° F

10. Pour saline on the gauze

11. Put on clean gloves.

12. Squeeze out the gauze dressing so it is not dripping wet.

13. If you need to pack open spaces under the skin or tunneled spaces in the wound, loosely place the gauze in the spaces. You may need to use a cotton swab to pack the small spaces.

14. Place the wet gauze in the wound. If the wound is large, put dry gauze on top of the wet gauze to fill the wound space and hold the wet gauze in place. Be sure the wet gauze is not on the healed skin around your wound because it may macerate the skin.

15. Cover the wet gauze with a large pad.

16. Tape the edges of the pad with tape to hold it in place.

17. Put your supplies away.

18. Wash your hands again.