The ventricular assist device (VAD) driveline dressing will be reinforced for the first 48 hours after surgery. After 48 hours, a gauze dressing will be applied and changed every day for the first 5 to 7 days after surgery. After this time, if you still have drainage, you will continue to use a gauze dressing.

As the site heals and there is less bleeding and drainage, you will switch to a long term dressing. See the handout, Ventricular Assist Device: Sorbaview Dressing Change, for more information.

A nurse specially trained to the ventricular assist device will teach you and your caregiver how to change the gauze dressing. Look at the area carefully when you change the dressing. Watch closely for signs of infection.

Ways to prevent infection

- **Keep your hands clean.** Do not let anyone touch the area without first washing their hands and wearing gloves.
- **Handle the driveline gently.** Do not let it move around too much.
- **At home or in the hospital, clean the skin and driveline with each dressing change** to prevent infection.

Gather these supplies

**Clean a table with a household disinfectant.** Place these supplies on the clean table:

- Alcohol based hand sanitizer or soap and water
- Gauze Driveline Management Kit

### Change your gauze dressing:

- **At least once a day**
- **Any time the dressing becomes damp, loose or soiled**
- **After every shower**

### If you have any of these signs of infection, call your doctor right away:

- Fever at or greater than 100.5 degrees F or 38 degrees C
- Redness
- Swelling
- Red streaks
- Yellow or green drainage or drainage that smells bad
- Warmth
- An increase in pain
Steps to follow every time

1. Wash your hands.

2. Open your kit and unroll the first fold.

3. Put on your mask. Have the patient put on a mask.

4. Put on the clean, unwrapped gloves.

5. Use the alcohol swabs to weaken the adhesive and remove the old dressing. Throw this dressing away and remove your gloves.

6. Wash your hands.

7. Put on the sterile, wrapped gloves.

8. Pick up the ChloraPrep swab and gently clean a wide area around the driveline. Spend 30 seconds gently scrubbing all 4 sides, moving from the driveline outward. **Allow to dry for 2 minutes.**

9. Repeat cleaning this area with the second ChloraPrep swab. **Allow to dry for 2 minutes.**

10. Take one split gauze and place it under the driveline.

11. Put five (4 inch x 4 inch) gauze sponges on top of the slitted gauze.

12. Apply skin prep to areas where the dressing adhesive will contact skin. **Allow to dry for 2 minutes.**

13. Center the adhesive dressing topper over the edges of the gauze and firmly smooth all edges.

14. Use the small closure adhesive to close the dressing over the site. Push up and under.

15. Place the driveline anchor device below the small closure adhesive and under the line. Press down to ensure it sticks to the skin.

16. Find the arrow on the base of the driveline anchor device. Pull the tab on the other side from the arrow to make an opening in the slit. Push the tab next to the arrow into this opening.

17. Holding onto both tabs, pull them in opposite directions until the first tab pulls through the slit, locking into place.

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**Talk to your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.**

The Library for Health Information is available to help you find more health information at (614) 293-3707 or e-mail: health-info@osu.edu.

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