Wound Care for Patients with Amputation

Wound care is done to clean the incision or wound, inspect it and to prevent infection.

- Do your wound care 2 time(s) a day or more often if the dressing is wet, soiled or becomes loose.
- Stop doing this care to your wound when the drainage stops. If you remove the dressing and there is no drainage on the gauze, you can leave the dressing off.

Getting ready

1. Wash your hands with warm water and soap. Rinse with warm water and dry your hands with a towel.
2. Clean the work area by washing the area with soap. Rinse and dry the area with a clean paper towel.
3. Gather the supplies and place them on the clean work area.
   - Tape
   - Scissors if needed to cut off old dressing
   - Gauze pads or clean wash cloths to clean and dry wound
   - Adaptic dressing
   - 4 X 4 gauze pad or 5 X 9 ABD (abdominal) dressing pad
   - Gauze wraps or Kling roll
   - Other
   - Plastic bag for old dressing
   - Soap and water or other solution like Caraklenz to clean wound
   - Clean towel

Remove the old dressing

1. Remove the ace wraps from the stump and set aside. Put a towel under your leg before you take the old dressing off.
2. Remove the tape. Unwind the outer wrap or cut off the outer dressing with clean scissors.
3. Gently remove the dressing from the wound. If the dressing is stuck, wet the dressing with tap water, wait 3 - 5 minutes and then remove it.
4. Place the old dressing in the plastic bag.
Cleaning the wound

1. Wash your hands again.

2. Use soap and water on gauze pad or clean cloth to clean the wound. Start at one end of the wound and clean to the other end. Be sure to wash away any drainage or dried blood. Wash over the incision but do not scrub it hard.

3. Pat gently with a dry gauze pad or clean towel to dry from one end to the other.

4. Inspect the wound for redness, drainage, swelling, or odor.

5. Cover the wound with the dressing. First put on the adaptic. Then follow with a gauze pad or ABD pad. Wrap with the gauze roll or Kling to hold the dressing in place.

6. Tape the end of the dressing to hold it in place. Be sure to tape onto the dressing and not to the skin.

7. Apply the ace wraps around the stump.

8. Clean up the work area and place old dressing in the trash.

9. Wash your hands.

Call your doctor if you have:

- Increased pain in or around the wound
- Change in the amount of drainage
- Change in color or odor of drainage
- A wound that gets larger
- Red streaks on the skin near the wound
- Redness or increased warmth in tissues around the wound

If you would like more written information, please call the Library for Health Information at (614)293-3707. You can also make the request by e-mail: health-info@osu.edu.