



Wound Care Dressings and Their Uses

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Topical Therapy: Principles

- Remove necrotic tissue and foreign bodies or particles
- Identify and eliminate infection
- Obliterate dead space
- Absorb excess exudate
- Maintain a moist wound surface
- Provide thermal insulation
- Protect the healing wound from trauma and bacterial invasion

Doughty, Acute and Chronic Wounds, 1992



Wound Care Product Selection

- Wounds are dynamic and will require different approaches during healing process
- Continually reassess patient and wound
- Topical therapy is one part of the nurses role - must eliminate cause and support host
- Continually educate self on products to make informed choices



Wound Care Product Selection: Other Considerations

- Frequency of change
- Ease or difficulty of procedure
- Care giver
- Availability of products
- Cost or reimbursement factors



Wound Care Product Selection: Other Considerations

- Is wound partial or full thickness?
- Is wound dry or draining?
- Is wound superficial or deep?
- Need to develop treatment protocols based on wound characteristics rather than wound type.

Types of Topical Wound Dressings



- Hydrocolloid dressings
- Hydrogel dressings
- Alginate dressings
- Hydrofiber dressings
- Transparent film dressings
- Foam dressings
- Absorption dressings
- Gauze dressings
- Composite dressings
- Biologic dressings
- Other

Hydrocolloid Dressings





Hydrocolloid Dressings

- Made up of pectin based wafer material
- Absorb minimal to moderate exudate
- Occlusive – should not be used on infected wounds
- Come in various shapes and sizes
- Should not be used if you need to change more than q 2-3 days







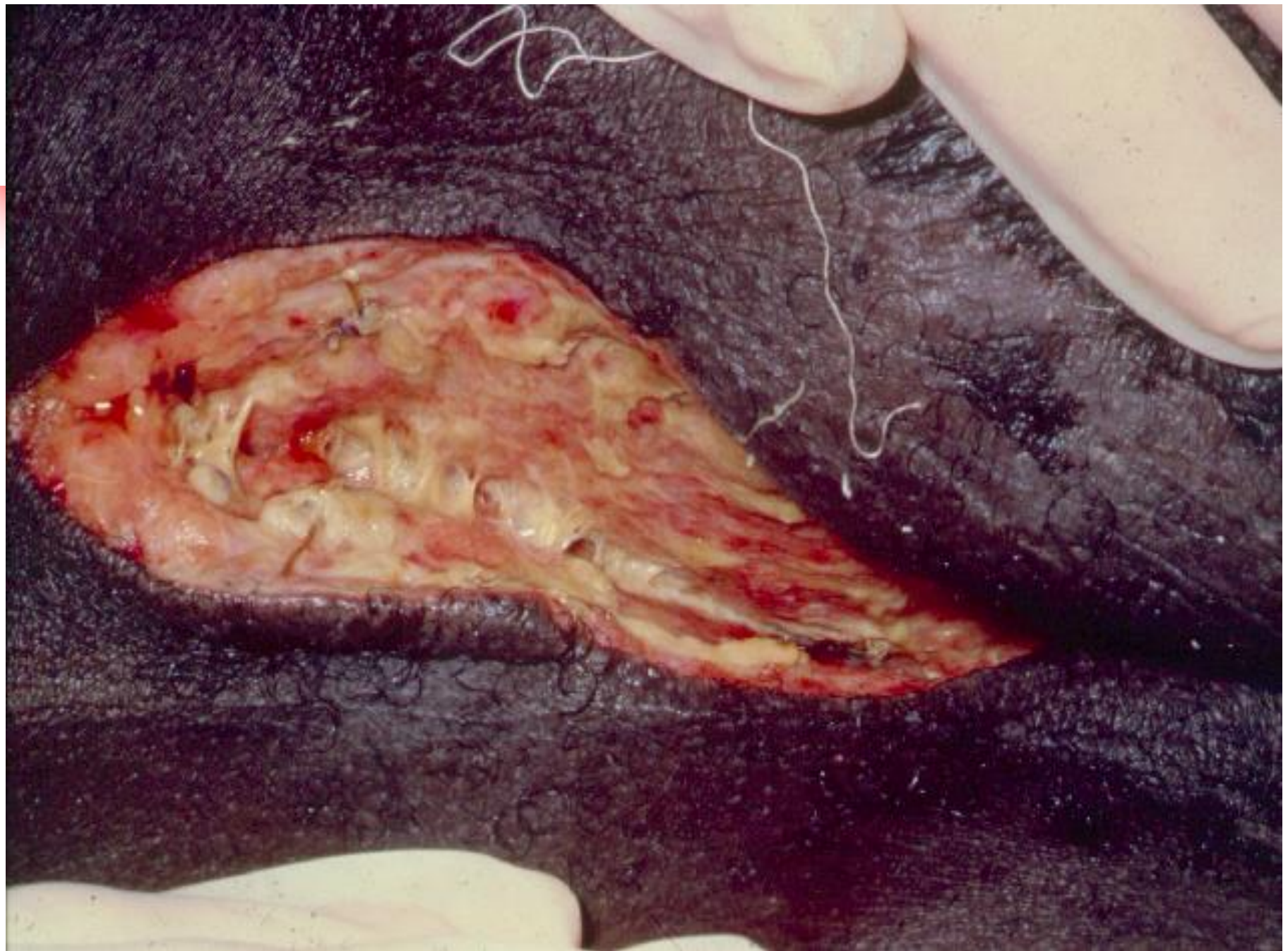
Hydrogel Dressings





Hydrogel Dressings

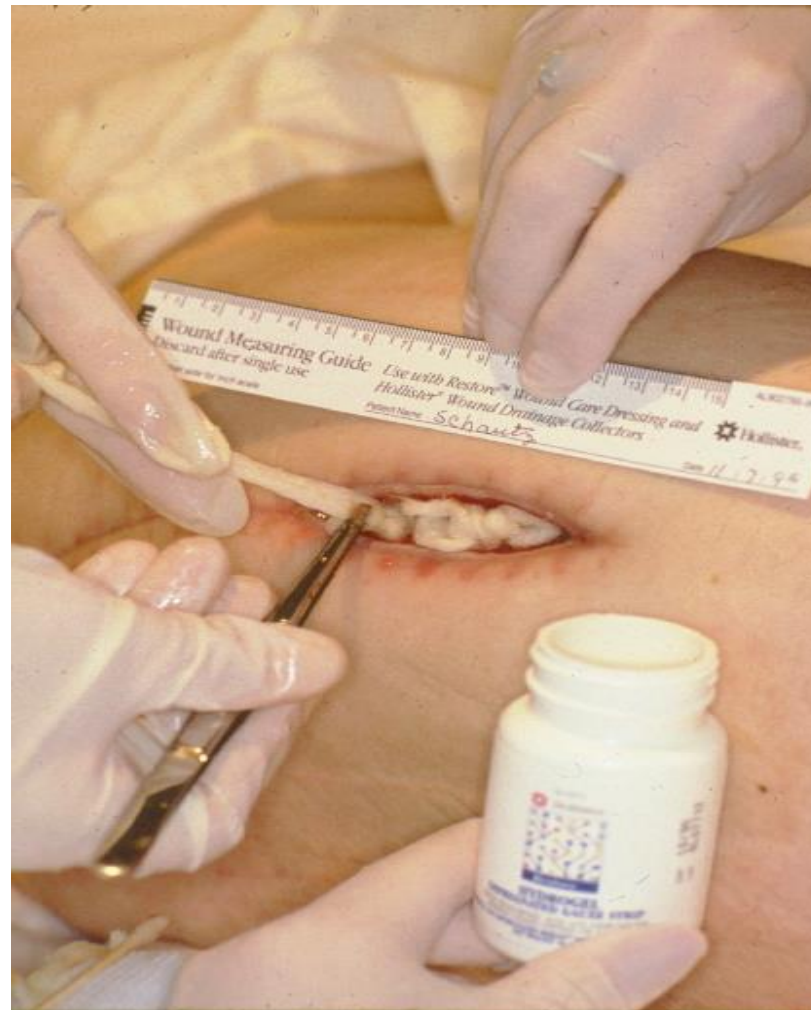
- Made up of primarily water in a polymer to maintain moist wound base
- Come in amorphous or sheet formulations
- Should be used in dry wounds
- Should not be used in more than minimally exudating wounds
- Should not be used with an absorbant dressing, e.g. hydrocolloid, foam, etc.



Hydrogel Sheet Dressing



Hydrogel Amorphous Dressing





Alginate Dressings – With or Without Silver





Alginate Dressings

- Made up of seaweed from the North Sea
- Absorb moderate amounts of drainage
- Dry formulation, that becomes a gel when it comes into contact with wound fluid through Calcium/Sodium ion exchange
- Should not be used with hydrogels

Hydrofiber Dressings




- Work the same as alginates but absorb ~ 30 % more exudate.
- Use with caution in mildly draining wounds.







AL902795-990

Use with Restore™ Wound Care Dressing and  Hollister.
Hollister® Wound Drainage Collectors

Patient Name

RAR Date 9/15/96



Foam Dressings

- Made up of polyurethane foam
- Absorbs moderate to large amounts of drainage
- Available in various sizes and shapes
- Some types may macerate periwound skin if it allows drainage to wick laterally

Foam Dressings



Silicone Backed Foams

- Allevyn Gentle



- Mepilex Border





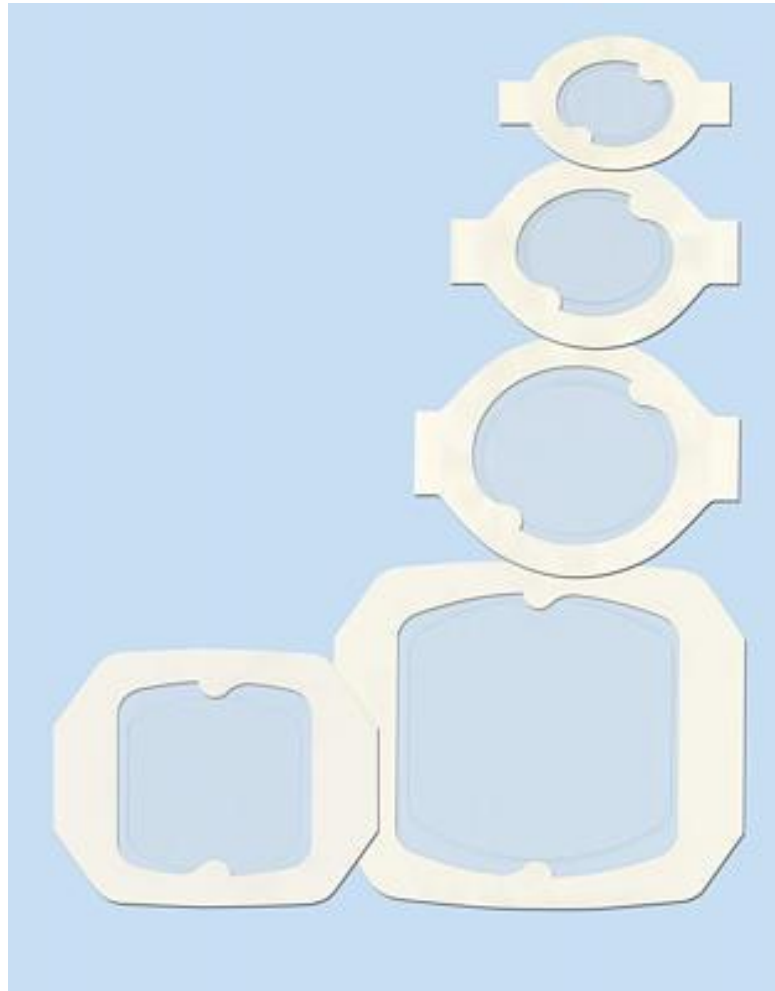
Absorbent Dressings

- Frequently made with “diaper” technology to absorb more drainage than traditional ABD pad
- Many are covered with non-adherent layer, e.g. ExuDry

Absorbent Dressings



Acrylic Absorbent Dressing





Specialty Dressings

- Silver dressings – e.g. Acticoat
- Biologic Dressings – SIS (Oasis)
- Skin Substitutes – Appligraf/
Dermagraft

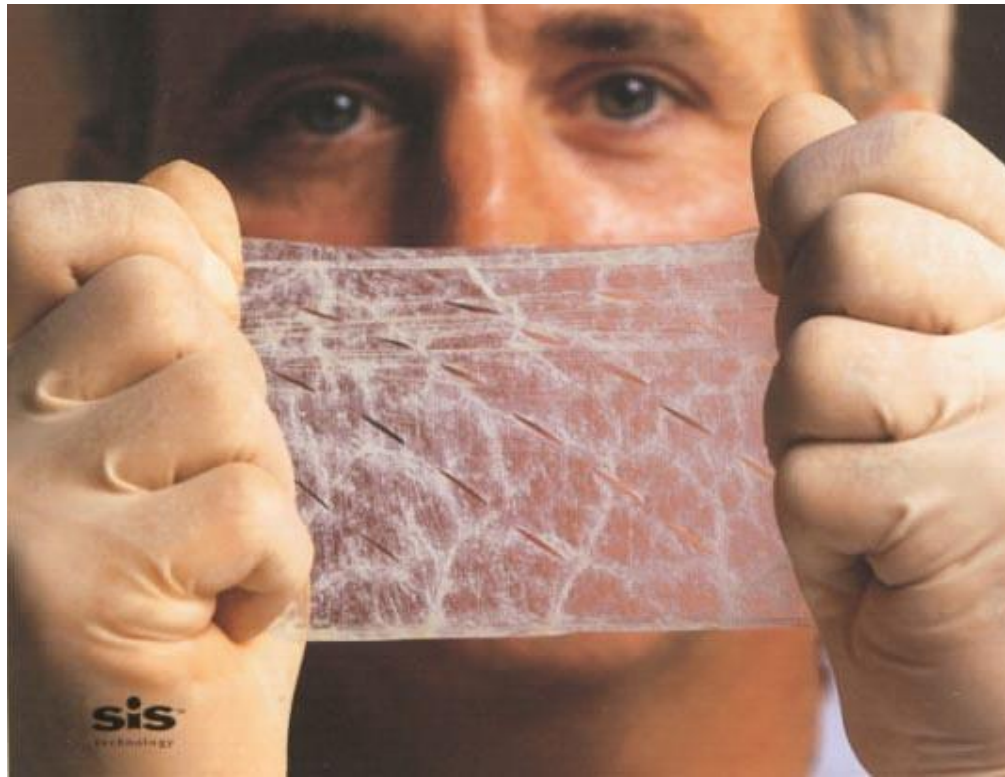
Silver Dressings

- Antimicrobial to reduce bioburden of wound through slow release of silver ion into the wound



Biologic Dressings

- SIS (Sterile intestinal submucosa) - Oasis



Skin Substitutes

- Appligraf
- Dermagraft



Specialty Products

KCI Wound VAC

