

## What is Aquacel® Ag Hydrofiber®?

Aquacel® Ag Hydrofiber® is a soft sterile cellulose (derived from cotton) dressing impregnated with 1.2% ionic silver, which kills a broad spectrum of bacteria. The dressing absorbs wound fluid, creating a gel that moulds to the wound surface, supporting the healing process and reducing the risk of wound infection. It is a dressing that is used as a temporary cover for clean partial thickness burns and will stay in place to protect your wound while it heals.

## What are the benefits of Aquacel® Ag Hydrofiber®?

Aquacel® Ag Hydrofiber® dressing has several properties which are beneficial for the management of superficial and mid-dermal partial thickness burns.

- Reduced pain and discomfort during application, dressing changes and throughout the whole healing process
- Can be left in place for up to 14 days
- Fewer dressing changes required
- It acts as a barrier to external contamination

## What is an alternative option?

There are a range of dressings that can be used to cover a burn wound. Aquacel® Ag Hydrofiber® is one of those dressings, but has a benefit of providing an immediate wound cover and often being the only dressing required for the duration of the healing process.

## Are there any side effects?

Aquacel® Ag Hydrofiber® dressing with ionic silver should not be used on individuals who are sensitive to

or who have had an allergic reaction to silver or sodium carboxymethylcellulose. If in the rare instance you show evidence of an allergic reaction to the product, it would be removed immediately and its use discontinued.

There are no known problems that have been identified by health care professionals when using Aquacel® Ag Hydrofiber® in burn wound care.

## Does it hurt?

You may require pain relief to enable health care professionals to clean your wound before the application of your dressing or if your wound hurts during the first few days after application. You may experience a 'drawing' sensation following initial application, which may cause discomfort. Continue to take pain medication as directed by your burns team.

As time passes and the wound begins to heal you may feel the area becomes tender or itchy - this is normal, but if it becomes irritating please inform a member of the burns team.

## What should I expect?

Aquacel® Ag Hydrofiber® dressing requires a single application and is applied by a member of the burns team directly to a cleaned burn wound.

Initially, some fluid from your wound will drain through the dressing (this is normal) and staff will apply an absorbent outer dressing (such as sterile gauze), tape or retention bandage over the Aquacel® Ag Hydrofiber®. The outer dressing will absorb this fluid. Do not remove the outer dressing and do not get the dressing wet.

A few days after the application, a member of the burns team will remove the outer dressing down to the Aquacel® Ag Hydrofiber® and check for adherence (whether it is stuck down). It may be necessary for the staff to trim away any areas of the dressing that have not adhered. At this point, the outer dressing is no longer required.

As your wound heals, the Aquacel® Ag Hydrofiber® dressing will take on the colour of the wound fluid and become dry.

The exterior of the dressing becomes a hard shell and bonds to the skin. However, this should not interrupt movement of the jaw, eyelids or mouth when applied to the face or any other joints. If Aquacel® Ag Hydrofiber® becomes uncomfortable or restricts movement, please contact a member of the burns team.

Aquacel® Ag Hydrofiber® dressing is designed to detach during healing. About 7 to 14 days after the dressing was placed, its hardened edges will begin to lift. A member of the burns team will trim any dressing that is lifting and not stuck down. You may be asked to trim the detached dressing with clean scissors at home. The dressing will continue to detach as healing occurs.

Once the skin has healed, a non-perfumed moisturising cream or lotion should be applied to the healed areas as advised by your burns team.

## Will I be able to have a bath or shower?

Whilst the dressing is in place you will be advised to avoid bathing or showering the affected area and you should be careful not to wet the dressing. The burns team will be able to advise you on the best way to bathe or shower.

## What are the risks of Aquacel® Ag Hydrofiber®?

There are risks associated with any procedure and in the case of burn wound care these are pain, bleeding and infection. These happen very rarely and if any of them do occur, your burns team will take appropriate action.

### **St Andrews Burns Service Broomfield Hospital (Chelmsford)**

Adults 01245 516186  
Children 01245 516973  
Outpatients 01245 516008

### **Chelsea & Westminster Hospital (London)**

Adults 0203 3153785 (Mon - Fri 8:30 – 16:30)  
02033152500 (out of hours)  
Children 02033 153706 / 0203 3153707

### **Queen Victoria Hospital (East Grinstead)**

Adults 01342 414440  
Children 01342 414469

### **Stoke Mandeville Hospital (Aylesbury)**

Adults and Children 01296 315040

### **The Royal London Hospital (Whitechapel, London)**

Adults 0203 594 6643/6035/6034  
(Mon 13:30-16:00/Thur 9:30-13:00)  
BHNT.Plasticsurgery@nhs.net

[www.lsebn.nhs.uk](http://www.lsebn.nhs.uk)

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# Aquacel® Ag Hydrofiber® Dressing in Burn Wound Care

## Patient Information

**This leaflet answers some of the most commonly asked questions about Aquacel® Ag Hydrofiber®.**

**If you have any questions or would like to talk about anything related to your treatment, please speak to a member of the burns team.**