Donor Site Care

For all Donor Sites

- Watch for signs and symptoms of infection:
  - Increased redness (over 1 inch in width) and swelling around the skin graft.
  - Foul smelling drainage from the skin graft.
  - Flu-like symptoms (fever, chills, nausea or vomiting, muscle aches)
  - Increased pain

Care of a Donor Site with a Mepilex® Ag Dressing

Mepilex® is an absorbent foam dressing with a silicone layer with silver that adheres to intact skin and does not stick to open wounds.

- Leave the donor site dressing in place until you return to clinic. Keep it clean and dry.
- You should call the number listed at the end of this handout and return to clinic to have your dressing checked if any of these problems occur. Your dressing might need to be changed:
  - Outer dressing becomes saturated with too much drainage from the donor site.
  - Outer dressing gets wet.
  - Dressing becomes dislodged, exposing the open donor site.
  - Watch for signs and symptoms of infection (see above).

Care of a Donor Site after the Mepilex Ag Dressing Has Been Removed

- Wash the area with mild soap and water starting on ________________.
- Treat open areas with Bacitracin and Cuticerin.
- Apply moisturizing lotion ________________ to keep a newly healed donor site from drying out and cracking.
- Watch for signs and symptoms of infection (see above). Call the number listed at the end of this handout if you notice any of these problems.

Care of Primary Closure Donor Site

- Keep the site covered with the first dressing until ________________.
- Once the dressing is removed, leave the incision site open to the air.
- If Steri-strips are used (thin white tapes across your incision), do not remove them until they loosen and fall off on their own. This takes about one week.
- You may shower starting on ________________. No tub baths.
- Watch for signs and symptoms of infection (see above). Call the number listed at the end of this handout if any of these problems occur.
Care of a Healed Donor Site
- Wash the area with mild soap and water.
- Apply lotion ____________________.
- Apply compression ___________________________.

Phone Numbers
For question Monday through Friday 8 AM -5 PM please call the General Surgery and Burn Clinic at 608-263-7502.

If you have urgent questions or needs after hours or on weekends, call the Burn Unit Nurses at 608-263-1490 or call 608-262-2122 and ask to have the Burn resident paged.

If you have non urgent questions or needs after hours or on weekends, please leave a message for the General Surgery triage nurse at 608-890-9542.

If you live out of the area, you can call toll free at 1-800-323-8942.

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person’s health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 8/2016 University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing. HF#5825