

The Veterinary Wound Library Wound Management Guide



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Wound Type	Objectives of management	Low to Medium Exuding Wounds + / ++	Wounds with high exudate	Heavily contaminated / infected wounds
Surgical Wound	Maintain a clean environment over suture margin. Sutures will have served to close the wound and wound margins support healing beneath. The cover dressing should protect from cross contamination over 24 to 48 hours. Protect surrounding skin from leakage of exudate where drains are in place.	Dry dressing eg. Primapore or Film island dressing eg. Leukomed T Plus	Foam dressing eg. Allevyn, Advazorb Protect surrounding skin from excoriation using barrier cream or spray. eg. Cavilon	If infected or dirty treat as necrotic/sloughy Consider open management perform culture and sensitivity
Necrotic	Dead and devitalised tissue should be debrided and the wound lavaged thoroughly. Saline or balanced Electrolyte solution at a volume of 100mls per 1cm wound as a minimum. Dressings should assist in reducing physical and microbial bioburden. Changes may be daily to every 2 days initially.	Surgical Debridement OR Wet to dry dressing For gentler mechanical debridement: Debriding pad (eg Debrisoft)	For gentler mechanical debridement: Debriding Pad (eg Debrisoft) For autolytic debridement: Medical Grade Manuka Honey Secondary dressing: Foam or Super-Absorbent dressing: eg. Flivasorb, Eclypse Protect surrounding skin from excoriation using barrier cream or spray. eg. Cavilon	
Sloughy	Soft debris and slough should be gently removed. The wound will be in the inflammatory phase and debridement will encourage movement to proliferative phase. If the wound is stuck in this phase for more than 1 week there will be a factor inhibiting proliferation. (See 12 Factors).	For autolytic debridement: Medical Grade Manuka Honey Secondary dressing: Foam		
Granulating	Maintaining a moist environment promotes better wound contraction tissue from trauma and damage. Dressings should be changed as infrequently as is practical to preserve new tissue growth and wound contraction; typically between 3 and 5 days assuming bandaging is appropriate.	Primary dressing: Hydrogel or Hydrogel Sheet Secondary dressing: Foam dressing For scar management Consider gentle massage with emolient creams: eg. Aqeous cream	(Option only likely in association with fistular or local draining tract)	
Epithelialising	Maintain a clean, moist wound bed to support optimal epithelial migration. Limit interference with the wound bed in the same way as with granulation tissue. A healed wound bed will be fragile for some months to come and only 80% as strong as normal skin. Client education and a plan for protection in the coming months will be paramount for success.		Protect surrounding skin from excoriation using barrier cream or spray. eg. Cavilon	