

Skin Tears –

A common, painful injury.



An estimated 1.5-4.5 million skin tears occur per year in long-term care facilities alone in the United States.¹

PolyMem's® Formulation Improves Skin Tear Outcomes²

Common conditions with skin tears:

- Skin tears are the result of shear and/or friction, which causes the layers of the skin to separate from one another or the fascia, forming a traumatic open wound.³
- Skin tears tend to be painful.^{3,4}
- Skin tears can become infected and may heal slowly in compromised patients.^{3,4,5}
- Skin tears become increasingly common with age because:^{3,4,5,6}
 - skin thins
 - elasticity is reduced
 - natural lubrication is diminished
 - capillaries become fragile
 - the dermal-epidermal junction is weakened
- Use of steroids and anticoagulants predispose individuals to skin tears.^{4,6}

PolyMem

Built right into each multifunctional PolyMem dressing, these four capabilities are ready when you need them – without incurring extra costs or needing additional supplies.

CLEANSSES Contains a mild nonionic, nontoxic, tissue friendly cleansing agent, activated by moisture, that is gradually released into the wound bed. The built-in, continuous cleansing capabilities usually eliminate the need to cleanse the skin tear wound during dressing changes so you can avoid disrupting the growth of healthy tissue as the tear heals.

FILLS Gently expands to fill and conform to the wound, which helps maintain a moist wound healing environment.

A skin tear protocol incorporating the PolyMem formulation helps²:

- Reduce the pain associated with skin tears
- Facilitate quicker healing
- Reduce the risk of infection at the skin tear site

ABSORBS Wicks up to ten times its weight in exudate, to help provide long wear time.

MOISTENS Keeps the wound bed moist and soothes traumatized tissues, helping to reduce wound pain and providing comfort at the skin tear site. The moisturizer also helps keep the dressing pad from adhering to the wound so it removes with virtually no pain, improving caregiver-patient interaction and the overall care experience.

Management of skin tears with PolyMem is cost-effective^{2,7}

- Published estimated cost to heal a single skin tear is approximately \$170 using traditional treatment choices
- Estimated cost to heal a skin tear when using PolyMem is about \$21 because PolyMem:
 - Reduces total number of dressing changes
 - Reduces the amount of time required to change the dressing

EXAMPLE OF ACTUAL CLINICAL RESULT²



Wound rinsed with saline



Wound covered with Poly-Mem island dressing



Three days later dressing changed – note improvement



Ten days after injury, skin tear is healed, with only three dressing changes



PolyMem and Shapes® by PolyMem Skin Tear Application

1. Initially cleanse with saline, being careful to not dislodge any “flap” that is still attached.
2. Approximate the edges, if possible, with a minimum number of thin adhesive strips.
3. Cover with an appropriately sized PolyMem or Shapes island dressing or a non-adhesive PolyMem dressing. A non-adhesive PolyMem dressing can be held in place with self-adhering wrap.

After placing the dressing on the skin tear, mark the approximate border of the exposed dermis, if any, on the top of the dressing. This will be used as a guide as to when the dressing should be changed.

4. Change the dressing when exudate, visible through the top of the dressing, reaches the approximate wound margin. The dressings provide an external visual guide to help determine when to change the dressing. If the exudate does not reach the approximate wound margin, the dressing may be left in place up to seven days.

If the skin tear involved full “flap” loss, it is common to change the dressing during the first 24-48 hours because it is likely to see a high level of exudate absorbed into the dressing.

5. A new dressing is placed on the wound. Follow steps three and four above until the wound is healed.

THE CHANGE PROCESS IS SIMPLE – JUST REMOVE THE DRESSING AND PLACE A NEW DRESSING ON THE WOUND. THE DRESSING PAD IS NON-ADHERENT TO THE WOUND SURFACE, ASSURING PAIN FREE REMOVAL FROM THE WOUND BED AND REDUCING THE RISK OF DISRUPTING THE HEALING TISSUES DURING THE DRESSING CHANGE. ADDITIONALLY, NO WOUND CLEANSING IS PERFORMED DURING THE CHANGE PROCESS BECAUSE THE DRESSING’S UNIQUE DESIGN PROVIDES CONTINUOUS CLEANSING OF THE WOUND.

When using PolyMem or Shapes by PolyMem adhesive bordered dressings, use appropriate removal techniques.

SUGGESTED DRESSING OPTIONS



Shapes by PolyMem Adhesive Film Border Island – water-resistant for long wear time and shaped to conform to the natural shape of the wound, also available in silver



Adhesive Film Border Island – water-resistant for long wear time



Cloth Adhesive Border – highly breathable border for locations where water-resistance is not required



Non-adhesive – ideal for use when held in place with non-adhesive application methods

PolyMem formulation incorporating Silver is also available.

A dressing designed to bring ahhhs, not ouches.

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by PolyMem®
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