

## POSTOPERATIVE DRESSING CHANGES & MATERIALS

**PLEASE READ IMMEDIATELY:** This is a box of dressings for your surgical incisions.

**DISREGARD ANY OTHER INSTRUCTIONS** YOU MAY HAVE RECEIVED AT THE SURGERY CENTER OR HOSPITAL ABOUT CARING FOR YOUR INCISIONAL DRESSINGS.

**Begin changing your dressing(s) on day 3 after your procedure and do so daily.**

These collagen-based bandages and supplies have been chosen to maximize your healing potential, protect and strengthen your incision(s), and create a barrier to infection and other contaminants. They are designed to promote the best possible results after your surgery.

Here is a link to learn more about the company and to watch videos on how to apply the bandages: <https://www.medship.health/how-to-use>

The dressings should be applied in a three-step process following the directions below. The collagen comes in two forms: sheets and powder. For longer surgical incisions, you should use a collagen sheet dressing. For short or "stab" incisions used for arthroscopic surgery or robotic surgery, use the collagen powder. Some patients will only have one long incision and, therefore, will not have any powder in this box of supplies.

Regardless of the form of collagen, the final step is to seal the incision and skin with a secondary adhesive dressing. This locks in the collagen and seals the wound. This is not water-resistant and should be kept dry. You may choose to perform the dressing changes after showering.

### **Step 1: Before applying collagen**

1. Remove the previous dressing(s) completely.
2. Cleanse the incision(s). Peroxide can remove dried blood, if necessary, but should otherwise not be used. Rinse the wound with sterile saline or water. Warm water and anti-bacterial soap may also be used in its place.
3. Pat-dry the incision with a clean towel or gauze, or you can use a hair dryer on the cool setting.

## Step 2: Apply the collagen dressing

1. For the small arthroscopic or robotic stab incisions, open one packet of powder for each incision and apply the collagen powder to the incision.
2. For the larger incisions, use the collagen sheet. It should be cut to fit and cover the incision. There should be 2 inches of collagen border around every side/end of the incision.
3. Lay the cut piece of collagen directly on the incision. If you are unsure of which side of the sheet to lay against the incision, please call the company at the number listed below.

## Step 3: Apply the secondary occlusive dressing

1. Make sure the skin is dry around the collagen.
2. Cover and seal the collagen powder and/or collagen sheet with the secondary adhesive dressing. Press the edges down to secure the construct.
3. The secondary dressing comes in two sizes. A large one for the main incision and separate small ones for the stab incisions. You may cover the stab incisions with one small secondary dressing each or cover two or three of them simultaneously with the same small secondary dressing.

For an incision over a mobile joint (a knee replacement incision, for example), apply the collagen and secondary dressings with the joint bent or flexed.

**Repeat this process daily until the supplies are exhausted or your wound has healed.**

***If you have any questions about these products or applications, please contact Medship at 937-452-6115***