



# Post-Cardiac Device Implant Incision Skin Irritation: A Review of Skin Dressings and Dressing Applications

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## Background

- Until recently, patients at Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital had a Tegaderm™ Film and gauze dressing applied over the incision site following a cardiac device implantation. Dressings remained intact until the follow up appointment one week following implantation, at which time the dressing was removed.
- Upon removal of the dressing, skin irritation, tears, and blisters were occasionally observed under the dressing and around the incision.
- A literature review was initiated in response to patient safety concerns identified by the electrophysiology cardiology services team.

The purpose of this literature review was to determine potential etiologies, including skin dressings or dressing applications which may lead to skin irritation, tears, or blisters after cardiac device implantation.

## Methods

- Pub Med was used for this search.
- Keywords searched for included:
  - skin tears
  - skin tear prevention
  - skin tear management
  - changing dressings
  - delay versus early dressing changes
  - dressing selection
  - secure dressings
  - skin protection
- Full articles were selected from those identified based on the relevance of their titles and abstracts.



One week after Tegaderm™ Film dressing application

## Results

- A total of eleven articles were reviewed.
- Seven articles met inclusion criteria and were fully reviewed.
- No specific skin dressings or dressing applications were identified which may lead to skin irritation, tears, or blisters in post-cardiac device implant patients.
- This literature review led directly to a trial utilizing a new dressing, AQUACEL® Ag Surgical, for post-cardiac device implantation.

## Conclusion

- Specific dressings or dressing applications are not associated with increased risk of skin irritation.
- To date, there have been no skin irritations, tears, or blisters in the post-cardiac implant patients using the AQUACEL® Ag Surgical bandage applied post-operatively.

## References

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