LIMB RECONSTRUCTION SERVICE

PIN SITE CARE

CIRCULAR FRAME – TAYLOR SPATIAL FRAME / ILIZAROV FRAME

Initially cleaned on Days 1, 2, and 3 then dressed every 7 – 10 days

Individual pin sites are cleaned with a separate cotton swab soaked in saline
No attempt is made to remove crusts or scabs unless infection is present, then crusts should be gently removed

Dress with a pre cut keyhole Topper dressing dampened with alcoholic chlorhexidine, securing with the rubber stopper if present, which may have been dressing
The rubber stopper serves to secure the dressing and apply a light pressure to the pin site

Leave intact for 7 – 10 days

Inspect if there is any suspicion of irritation or infection or if dressing becomes soaked with blood or fluid

See Pictorial guide for Pin site care – Circular Frame – Ilizarov and Taylor Spatial Frame

References:


Paley, D. Problems, Obstacles and Complications of Limb Lengthening by the Ilizarov Technique. Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research


LIMB RECONSTRUCTION SERVICE

PIN SITE CARE – TIBIA OR ARM FRAME – Not femur

MONOLATERAL FRAME – HOFFMAN / EBI/ ORTHOFIX

Initially dressed on days 1, 2 & 3 and then dressed every 7 – 10 days

Pin sites are cleaned with a separate cotton ball soaked in saline
No attempt is made to remove crusts or scabs unless infection is present, then crusts should be gently removed

Dress with a pre cut keyhole Topper dressing dampened with alcoholic chlorhexidine, securing with the rubber stopper if present, which may have been applied in theatre.
The rubber stopper or dressing bulk serves to secure the dressing and apply a light pressure to the pin site

Wrap 5cm stretchy bandage around the dressing bulk to create a bolster effect between the skin and frame.

Leave intact for 7 – 10 days.

Inspect if there is any suspicion of irritation or infection or if the dressing is soaked with blood or fluid

See pictorial guide for Pin site care – Monolateral frame – Hoffman / EBI/ Orthofix – Tibial frame

References:


Paley, D. Problems, Obstacles and Complications of Limb Lengthening by the Ilizarov Technique. Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research


LIMB RECONSTRUCTION SERVICE

PIN SITE CARE – FMEORAL FRAME

MONOLATERAL FRAME – Hoffman/ EBI/ Orthofix

Initially dressed on day 1, then twice per week (or as per surgeon’s post-operative orders)

Pin sites are cleaned with a separate cotton swab soaked in saline

No attempt is made to remove crusts or scabs unless infection is present, then crusts should be gently removed

Dress with a pre-cut keyhole non adhesive polyurethane foam type dressing (eg Allevyn) to fit, securing with an adhesive fixation sheet tape (eg Hyperfix / Mefix). If infection or slough is present, then dress with a product impregnated with Silver (eg Allevyn Ag)

Apply a layer of padding over the dressing to add bulk (eg Topper precut 5cm x 5cm or similar

This serves to secure the dressing and apply a light pressure to the pin site and minimise skin movement at skin level

Wrap 5cm stretchy bandage around the dressing bulk to create a bolster effect between the skin and frame.

Leave intact for 3 – 4 days

Inspect if there is any suspicion of irritation or infection, or if dressing becomes soaked.

See pictorial guide for Pin site care – Monolateral frame – Hoffman / EBI/ Orthofix – Femoral frame

References:


Paley, D. Problems, Obstacles and Complications of Limb Lengthening by the Ilizarov Technique. Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research