

## **Comparison Of Two Different Skin Dressings Used on Central Venous Catheters: How the Skin is Affected**

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**Problem:** Part of the care provided by nursing at a large comprehensive Cancer Center's Infusion Therapy Clinic is Central Venous Catheter (CVC) care. Changing the skin dressing over the CVC can be a once or twice a week regimen. Due to chemotherapy and radiation, the skin integrity is frail and sensitive to many skin dressing adhesives. Problems can occur such as blistering, redness, itching and pain. Nursing staff felt it important to evaluate the evidence for the optimum skin dressing to apply to our patient's skin with a CVC while providing quality care. Currently multiple dressings are used within the institution. Evaluating the evidence will assist in the development of a set standard/protocol for skin dressing choices that will decrease skin reactions.

**Evidence:** Staff have been conducting a literature review by researching articles using Pubmed and Cinahl in multiple library sessions. The two skin dressings being compared are: Covaderm Plus and Mepilex.

**Strategy:** In order to evaluate the literature, a monthly Journal Club has been established in which research articles are being critiqued. This also provides an open forum to discuss the issues.

**Practice Change:** Currently, Infusion Therapy has not established a practice change; more information will be gathered via literature review.

**Evaluation:** In addition to the literature review, staff are evaluating the patient's skin reaction to the skin dressing adhesives. Evidence of redness, blistering, itching and pain are being assessed.

**Results:** No evidence of research to be found on Covaderm Plus. Research suggests that Mepilex skin dressing is less damaging to patient's skin with a low discomfort upon removal.

**Recommendations:** Before further recommendations can be made, more research needs to be done on skin dressings, in particular the Covaderm Plus dressing.

### **Bibliography:**

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