

Pin Site Care

First Dressing Change If possible, the theatre dressings are left intact for 36-48 hours post op. Prior to removing theatre dressings, the frame is thoroughly cleaned, (the rings, rods, and attachments) using clean water and soap. When the frame is clean and dry, the theatre dressings are gently removed and disposed of safely. Using an aseptic technique, the wounds are cleaned and redressed as appropriate to their stage of healing.

Pin Care, the first week... While you are in the hospital environment, nursing and surgical staff will adopt universal precautions and use an aseptic technique when dealing with your pin sites. For the first few days, pin site care is undertaken by the ward nursing staff. During this time, the nurse will begin to teach you or your carer or parent to take on this role. Until the wounds have healed, you may find it more comfortable to undertake pin care whilst sitting on your hospital bed using a ward dressing trolley.



Pin Site Care

Pin sites may be cleaned using either sterile gauze or compact sterile cotton buds. Each pin site is inspected every day. **If pin sites are clean and healthy, no further care is required.**



If **crusting** is seen at the pin site this should be removed.

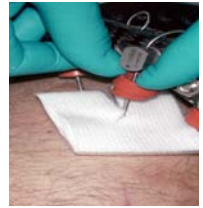
Using a cotton bud or piece of gauze moistened in sterile saline or water, gently clean the site. Do not use the same cotton bud (or piece of gauze) on another pin

site, as cross-infection from an infected pin site may occur.

Natural **scabs** as a result of wires or pins tearing through the patients skin should be left undisturbed. These may be seen when a patient is adjusting the frame to correct a deformity or when limb lengthening. The scabs will eventually fall off leaving these small tract marks. If pin sites do not ooze, they may be left exposed.



However, **oozing pin sites** should have a non-adherent key-holed dressing applied to prevent the oozing fluid from dripping onto other pin sites. The dressing is held in place using the rubber bung. Ensure the bung holds the dressing securely but without applying too much pressure on the underlying skin.



When wounds have healed...

Most patients are able to use the shower to clean the wounds and pin sites by day 7 post op. Usually by this time the surgical wounds have healed. If unsure, please ask the Ilizarov Team for advice. Some patients may have had plastic surgery at the time of their operation. For these patients, advice should be sought from the Plastic Surgery Team regarding the timing of showers for wound care.

In the shower..

If dressings are stuck, leave them until you have finished showering, by which time the dressings should be adequately soaked and easy to remove. You may need some assistance to sit comfortably under the shower. Firstly shower yourself as usual, using your

preferred shampoo, soaps or gels. (Try to use non-perfumed products) When finished, dry yourself and concentrate on showering the frame and pin sites. Cotton buds or gauze may be used in the shower for the more intricate pin care.



Or you may find it more comfortable returning to your bed to continue the pin care. Bathing the frame is allowed, but we ask you to shower the frame and pin sites after the bath to remove any soaps and dirty water. We do not encourage baths whilst in the hospital, only when at your own home.