

PURPOSE:

To facilitate a dressing change of a draining wound without removing and reapplying tape.

CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Montgomery straps should be considered for the patient needing frequent dressing changes and/or whose skin is irritated by tape removal.
2. Montgomery straps are commercially available and made of hyporeactive tape with a permeable cloth backing.
3. Montgomery straps may be made out of adhesive tape for the non-sensitive skin patient.

EQUIPMENT:

Montgomery straps or adhesive tape

Skin protectant, semi-permeable, membrane dressing

Gauze strips or cotton twill tape

Soap and water

Small safety pins and large rubber bands (optional)

Gloves

PROCEDURE:

1. Adhere to Standard Precautions.
2. Explain the procedure to patient.
3. Observe the wound and estimate the amount and size of Montgomery straps needed.
4. To make Montgomery straps:
 - a. Cut 4 to 6 strips of 2 to 3 inch wide tape for sufficient length to allow the tape to extend about 6 inches beyond the wound on each side. The length of the tape depends on the patient's size as well as the type and amount of dressing.
 - b. Fold one end of each strip 2 to 3 inches over on itself with the sticky side in.
 - c. Fold each end again in half and cut out a small semicircle. When using 3-inch tape, cut 2 small semicircles on each end.
5. Follow dressing orders.
6. To apply Montgomery straps:
 - a. Cleanse the patient's skin to prevent irritation. After the skin dries, apply a skin protectant to the skin where tape will adhere. Allow protectant to dry.
 - b. Apply semi-permeable, membrane dressing to the skin where Montgomery straps will adhere.
 - c. Apply Montgomery straps with the hole ends opposing on opposite sides of the dressing. Thread holes with gauze strips or cotton tape, bring the opposing straps together, and tie. Instead of using tied strips to fasten straps, place safety pins through the holes on each side and hook a rubber band into the opposing side. The rubber band allows a slight give with body movement. The dressing is easily

changed by unsnapping the safety pins on one side.

7. Discard soiled supplies in appropriate containers.

AFTER CARE:

1. Document in the patient's record:
 - a. Patient's response to procedure.
 - b. Condition of skin.
2. Plan visits to replace Montgomery straps whenever they become soiled or skin becomes irritated, usually every 5 to 7 days.
3. Observe the skin for any signs of skin irritation or maceration.
4. If skin maceration occurs, replace new straps about 1 inch away from any irritation. May use hydrocolloid wafer dressing, e.g., Duoderm® or Restore® under straps, if skin is denuded or irritated.

REFERENCES:

Richardson, M. (2003). Wound closure. *Emergency Nurse*, 11. P. 25-33.

Rolstad, B., & Ovington, L. (2007). Principles of wound management. In Bryant, R. & Nix, D (Eds.). *Acute and Chronic Wounds: Current Management Concepts* (3rd ed.). P 391-425. St. Louis, MO: Mosby

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