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## Pin Site Care at Home – Showering “Step by Step”

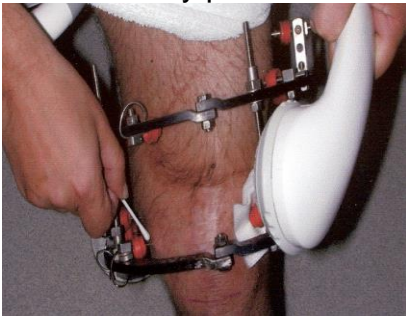
Wash your hands.

Remove old dressings & discard of safely. Wash hands again or use the alcohol gel.

Shower yourself as usual, use your usual preferred Shampoo, gel or soaps and allow the warm soapy water to run over the framed limb.

When you have finished showering yourself, concentrate the shower onto the frame to remove the residue of soaps and shampoo products

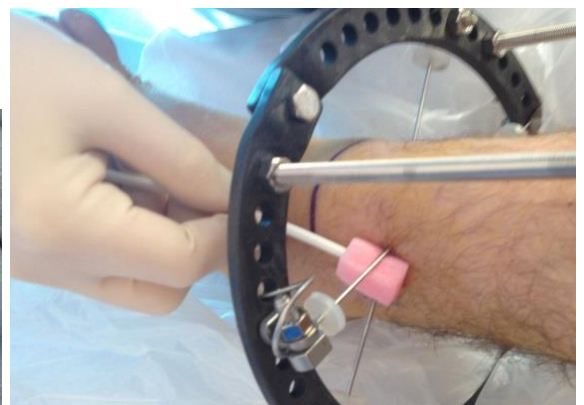
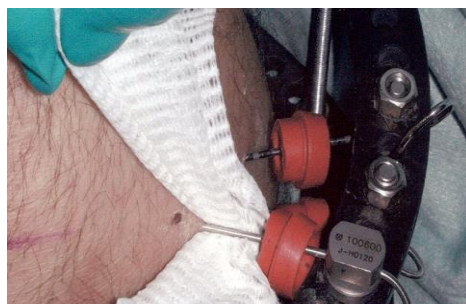
Shower every pin site thoroughly



If you are comfortable in the Bathroom, continue with Pin Site Care in the bathroom. The aim of pin site care is to remove any dried crusting from around the pin sites. If the shower has successfully removed all the crusts, then pin site care is finished and no further care is required. If there are a few sites which need further care, dry the frame and limb with a separate clean towel and return to your bed or chair.



Using a Sterile Mouth Sponge moistened in cooled boiled water (or saline), Clean around the pin site to remove old blood and crusting and then discard the sponge.

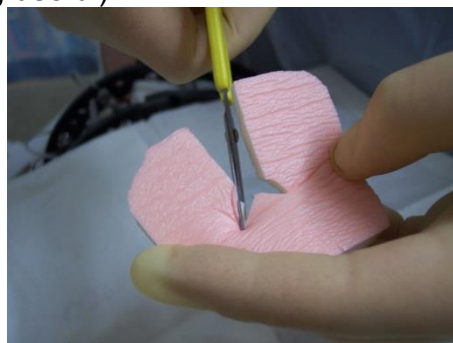
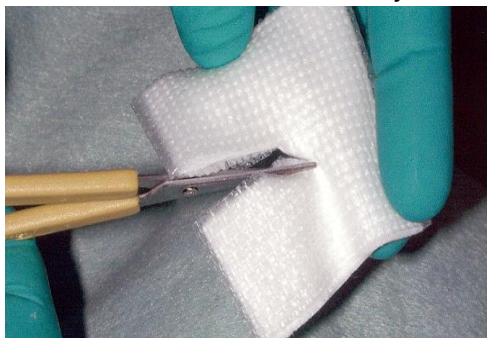


Use a new mouth sponge to dry the area or alternatively use a piece of gauze.  
Use a new (or unused) Mouth Sponge (or piece of gauze) for each individual pin site.  
Do not use a previously “used” mouth sponge on another pin site as cross-contamination of an infected site may occur. Clean the pin and wire shafts using the same technique.

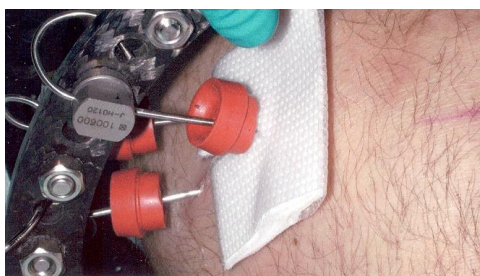
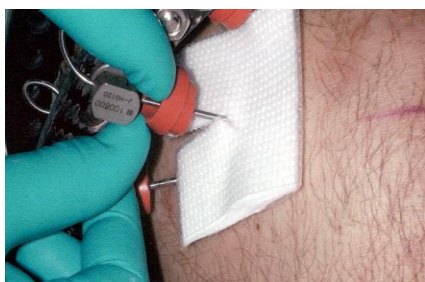
If they appear clean, no further care is required.

Unless directed otherwise by your surgeon, dry healthy pin sites do not require dressings when at home. However, if any of the pin sites are leaking, these must be covered with a dressing to prevent the leakage from dripping on to another pin site. Leaking pin sites can be a sign of pin site infection.

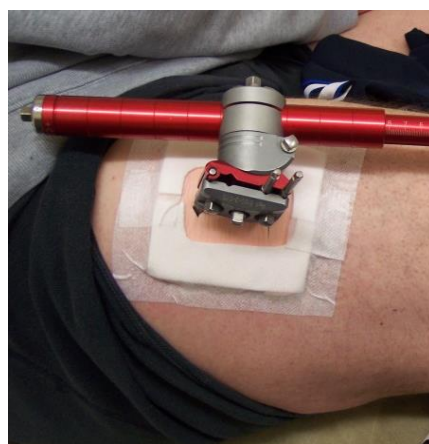
For these pin sites prepare a “key-holed” dressing of gauze / non adhesive dressing as seen in the photo (We find the Pink Non Adherent Alleyvn™ dressing useful)



Apply to the Pin Site, and push down the Bung / Rubber / Clips if available to hold the dressing around the pin site.



If your frame does not have bungs to hold dressings, simply use Micropore™ Tape.



**All Pin Sites should be inspected daily. If dressings are dry, then leave them in place. If any sites have oozed, change only that dressing. Otherwise Pin Site Care is once a week.**

If you think you may have a pin infection, stop showers and baths, have a swab taken from your pin site (either at the GP practice or at our clinic) and immediately start a course of anti-staphylococcal antibiotics. Infected pin sites should be cleaned and redressed daily until the infection has resolved.

For more information visit our Web Site for more information at:

[www.ouh.nhs.uk/limbreconstruction](http://www.ouh.nhs.uk/limbreconstruction)