Post Surgical Diaper Area Skin Care

If your child has had a stoma and has had stool diverted away from the anus, it is common to have skin redness and a rash after the operation to reconnect the bowel. Skin problems are also common after surgery for Hirschsprung’s disease. A little preventative skin care will minimize the amount of breakdown.

Following surgery.

Once stooling begins, it is very important to protect the skin from the irritating effects of frequent loose stools. A good product to use is Cavilon 3M No Sting Barrier Film®. This product is applied once daily to clean dry skin, usually following a bath. Apply this product directly to red areas including any rash or open sores. Begin at the anal opening, swiping out in a wide circle away from the anus. This product goes on wet and dries in one minute. While it is drying, hold the buttocks apart and do not allow the skin to skin contact until completely dry. This product can be used alone but often needs to be used in combination with a skin protective paste, described below.

When the Cavilon 3M No Sting Barrier Film® is dry, a barrier paste may used over this product to increase the skin protection. Two products that are often used are Butt Balm and Ilex® paste. Butt Balm is applied alone or over Cavilon 3M No Sting Barrier Film® to boost skin protection. Apply thickly (1/8 inch) to the anus and surrounding skin with each diaper change. After each stool, remove the stool from the paste without wiping the paste off the skin. A spray bottle of water may be helpful. Reapply more Butt Balm.

To make Butt Balm mix one 4 ounce tube of Desitin® and a 1 ounce bottle of Stomahesive powder® with 1/2 ounce bottle of anti fungal powder. Stir until well mixed, and thick like peanut butter.

An alternative barrier paste may be used instead of Butt Balm. One such product is Ilex® paste. Ilex® paste is premixed and holds up well to frequent stooling. Ilex® is applied alone or over Cavilon 3M No Sting Barrier Film® to boost skin protection. Apply thickly (1/8 inch) to the anus and surrounding skin with each diaper change. Cover with a layer of petroleum such as Vaseline® or A & D® ointment to protect that paste and increase adherence to the skin. After each stool, remove the stool from the paste without wiping the paste off the skin. A spray bottle of water may be helpful. Reapply more Ilex® paste and petroleum.

Once each day, give your baby a bath and soak off all the paste. Mineral oil is a gentle product to use on the skin to remove any residual barrier paste. Use bath time to check the skin to determine if the skin care plan is working.
Discharge and at home.

It will take one or two months before the frequency of stooling decreases and your child’s skin is conditioned to stool. Until this time, using skin protective products will minimize skin rash and keep your child more comfortable. These products (with the exception of the anti fungal powder) are over-the-counter and will have to be purchased from a pharmacy or supplier.

- Ilex® paste is manufactured by Medcon at 1/800/443/6332. The web address is www.ilexpaste.com.

- Stomahesive powder® is available through most pharmacies and ostomy product suppliers.

- Cavilon 3M No Sting Barrier Film® is available through some pharmacies and ostomy product suppliers. Call 1/800/228/3957 to find a local vendor.

- Numerous skin protective pastes are available over the counter. You may already have a product that you like and works well. Use any product that protects the skin and is not irritating.

- Our nurse can help you with skin care questions. She can be reached at 415/476/9717 or 415/476/2538.

Remember.

- A tub bath may be given once you are home from the hospital.

- Use Cavilon 3M No Sting Barrier Film® only on clean dry skin following the bath.

- You may use mineral oil and a cotton ball to gently remove paste and stool from the skin at the time of the bath.

- After bathing and during diaper changes, apply the paste thickly.

- Change diapers frequently.

- Call for advice if skin redness worsens or there is no improvement.