PRODUCT PICKER

WoundsCANADA.ca

Skin and Wound Clean-up

Skin Cleansers

Skin Cleansers	Description	Usage Considerations	Inventory Product
Tap water	•Good quality (drinkable or potable) tap water	•For good skin care	N/A
Body wash bars/liquids	•Should be pH balanced •Some are hypoallergenic •Some moisturize	•Rinse well after use •Avoid scented products	
Commercial skin cleansers	•pH balanced and hypoallergenic •Tend to moisturize as well as cleanse •Good for frequently soiled areas	•Use as indicated on instructions	
Antimicrobial skin cleansers	•Such as povidone iodine, chlorhexidine, alcohol •To be used on intact skin	•Should only be used if there is concern about bacterial overload •May be useful for perineal cleansing •Due to potential toxicity should not be used on wounds	

Wound Cleansers

Wound Cleansers*	Description	Usage Considerations	Inventory Product
Tap water	•Good quality (drinkable or potable) tap water	•No evidence that using tap water to cleanse wounds in adults or children increases or reduces infection or increases or reduces healing •In the absence of potable tap water, boiled and cooled water or distilled water can be used	N/A
Sterile normal saline	•Multi or single use container 0.9%	•Open saline should be discarded after 24 hours.	N/A
Commercial wound cleansers	•Iso- or hypertonic solution with surfactant •Some may have: · antimicrobial properties · surfactants that promote autolysis · preservatives to extend shelf life	•Cleanses and loosens debris from wound bed with the "spray/stream" option	
Antimicrobial wound cleansers	•Such as acetic acid 3%, chlorhexidine, povidone iodine, polyhexamethylene biguanide (PHMB), octenidine dihydrochloride (OCT) •Strength of the antimicrobial determines efficiency and potential toxicity of the product	•Antimicrobial action may subject to the length of time the wound bed is exposed to the product •It may be necessary to rinse the wound bed with sterile normal saline or water to remove any residue of the product	

*Wound cleansers should be single person use and used at room temperature

Skin and Wound Clean-up

Irrigation solutions

Irrigation solutions**	Description	Usage Considerations	Inventory Product
Sterile water	•Hypotonic and may cause hemolysis •Readily absorbed by the tissues during surgical procedures; its use under such conditions is not recommended	•Water toxicity may result when excess volumes are used	N/A
Sterile normal saline	•Isotonic •Most commonly used due to lowest toxicity and physiologic factors	•Does not cleanse dirty, necrotic wounds as effectively as other solutions	N/A
Commercial wound cleansers	•Increasingly used to remove, rather than kill, bacteria •Surfactant allows for less force required to remove bacteria and cellular debris	•Best for wounds with adherent cellular debris or in dirty, necrotic wounds •Contain preservatives to slow growth of bacteria, molds, and fungi, and extend product shelf life	
Antimicrobials	•Such as povidone-iodine and chlorhexidine, octenidine dihydrochloride (OCT) •Provide a broad spectrum antimicrobial solution effective against a variety of pathogens	•Cytotoxicity of the solution should be considered •May negatively affect acute wound healing	

** Irrigation solutions should be at body temperature

Reference: https://emedicine.medscape.com/article/1895071-overview

Debriding Products and Treatments

Debriding Products and Treatments	Description	Speed	Tissue Selectivity	Painful wound	Exudates	Infection	Cost
Surgical or Conservative Sharp	• Use of a scalpel or surgical instrument to remove tissue. Must be performed by a trained healthcare professional in an appropriate setting	★★★★★	★★★	★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★
Enzymatic	•Use of topical application of proteolytic substances (enzymes) to break down devitalized tissue.	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★	★★	★★★★
Autolytic	•Use of wound dressings that promote autolytic debridement and support the rehydration and softening of the devitalized tissue.	★	★★	★★★★★	★★★	★	★★★★★
Biologic	•Use of larval debridement therapy. Larvae possess potent enzymes that can liquefy necrotic tissue and secrete substances that destroy bacteria.	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★	★★★★	★★★
Mechanical	•Use of wound cleanser or normal saline between 8 and 15 PSI to loosen wound debris	★★	★	★★	★★★★	★★★	★★

★★★★★ = most desirable; ★ = least desirable