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## Graft management

### Showering and cleaning the graft

- Remove all layers of dressing covering grafted areas. Bandages can be cut off or unravelled with the gauze.
- Dried or stuck dressings can be soaked off in the shower.
- Clean with a hypoallergenic soap free, low irritant wash such as diluted Dermaveen Soapfree Wash. It can be used for the entire body and assists with itch management due to having colloidal oatmeal in it.
- A **circular motion** with firm pressure as tolerated by the client, should be used. This assists in softening hardened glue and crusty skin and removal of wound product remnants.
- Showering further assists in loosening, softening and cleaning the wound,. Debriding can continue after the shower.

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## Assessing the graft

Appropriate assessment of the graft take, determines its management requirements:

- A robust graft is pink in colour and does not move
- Graft loss where the graft has failed – may or may not heal with dressing support.
- **Interstices** are the perforations throughout the graft. The healing process results in integration with the graft making it more robust.
- Open interstices indicate moderate graft take. Progressive healing will allow integration with the graft.
- Pale areas of a graft require monitoring to ensure healing continues. Healing is optimal when the graft becomes pinker in colour.
- Glue is used to hold the graft in place for it to take. It should be removed overtime with picking and cleaning.
- Grafts overlapped on healed skin appear as a darker graft because the healed/good skin doesn't offer a blood supply. This will eventually loosen and fall off or will need to be trimmed.
- Graft overhang needs to be trimmed back to tidy up the long term look of the graft and reduce risk of bacterial colonisation

## Dry Slough

Stubborn areas, may present as dry slough that may require mechanical debridement

- Additional moistening or showering will assist in softening and loosening the slough.
- Gently pick slough and crusted areas to loosen and remove.
- A gradual process.

Review of the type of dressing selected, this may support the process.

<b>Contact Details</b>
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