



**William Randolph Hearst Burn Center**

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## **Application of Bacitracin® to Burns**

### **Why is it used?**

Bacitracin® is an antibiotic ointment that is applied to burns on the face and ears. It is also applied to healing burns on other parts of the body. Its purpose is to prevent infection. It should be applied 2 to 3 times a day or as needed. It can be purchased in most grocery stores and drug stores without a prescription.

### **How is it used?**

- ✓ Take your pain medicine before washing the burn as prescribed by your health care provider.
- ✓ Remove the old dressing and throw it away.
- ✓ Wash your hands.
- ✓ In the shower or in the bath, wash the burn with a clean washcloth using a mild soap (such as Dove® or Ivory®).
- ✓ After washing the burn, pat it dry with a clean washcloth or towel.
- ✓ Gently apply a thin layer of bacitracin to the open area. The area should look slightly shiny, but not greasy.
- ✓ A bandage is not always needed, but a non-stick bandage (such as Telfa® or Adaptic®) can be put on the area.

**Note:** If Bacitracin is applied too often, or if too much is applied, it may clog pores and cause pimples or a rash.

If you have questions please call the Burn Center (212) 746-5317  
Or the Burn Clinic (212) 746-5024

*This information is brief and general. It should not be the only source of your information on this health care topic. It is not to be used or relied on for diagnosis or treatment. It does not take the place of instructions from your doctor. Talk to your health care providers before making a health care decision.*