



William Randolph Hearst Burn Center

Application of Silvadene, Thermazine (Sulfadiazine) (SSD)

What is Silvadene for?

Silvadene is applied to unhealed burn wounds to protect the burn from becoming infected. It also provides a moist environment while the burn heals. The doctor will write a prescription for Silvadene cream either in the hospital or in the burn clinic. The prescription can be filled in any drug store.

How often do I use it?

Silvadene should be applied 2 times a day unless your doctor tells you to do it differently.

Are there any special precautions?

- Before you use this cream, you must tell the doctor if you have ever had an allergic reaction to any “Sulfa” drug, or if you are pregnant.
- Silvadene should never be applied to face. It can be put on the ears.
- Do not stop using the Silvadene until your doctor tells you to do so.
- If the cream darkens, throw it away and obtain a fresh supply

How do I change the dressings?

Equipment needed:

- Adaptic or Telfa dressing
- Kerlix gauze
- Tongue depressor
- Silvadene

1. If your doctor ordered pain medication for you, take it one half hour before changing the dressing
2. Remove the old dressing and discard it.
3. Wash your hands.
4. In the shower or bathtub, wash the burn with a clean wash cloth using a mild soap, for example Dove®, or Ivory®.
5. After washing the burn, pat it dry with a clean washcloth or towel.
6. Look at the wound. If you notice one or more of the following, call the Burn Center or the Burn Clinic:
 - More than one inch of redness around the burn
 - More swelling than the day before. (Remember swelling is normal 3 - 5 days after the burn injury).

- The skin is warm to the touch around the burn.
 - Fever (temperature of 102 degrees F or higher).
 - Drainage which is green and has a bad odor
7. Open the dressing (Adaptic® or Telfa®) package
 8. Open the jar of Silvadene®. Using a tongue depressor, take out the amount of cream you will need to cover the entire wound. Place the cream on the inside of the dressing package. Close the jar of Silvadene®.
 9. Using a tongue depressor, apply a thin coating (about 1/8th to 1/16th inch) of cream, covering all burned areas.
 10. Apply a non-stick pad (Telfa® or Adaptic®) on top of the cream. Wrap the burned area with the Kerlix® gauze.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- **If an arm or leg is burned, elevate the arm(s) or leg(s) on pillows.**
- **To prevent swelling, wrap a burned foot and/or leg with an ace bandage when you are standing or walking**

If you have questions, please call **THE BURN CENTER** at:
(212) 746-5317 (24 hours a day)
or
(212) 746-5024 (Mon-Fri, 9 AM to 5 PM)

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.

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