

### Dressing of Skin Graft Donor Sites

**Age:** 77 years  
**Sex:** Female  
**Etiology:** Skin graft donor sites

A 77-year old woman scalded with hot coffee on her right thigh, resulting in grade II-III burns that involved 3% of her body surface area. Necrectomy and dermo-epidermal autotransplantation indicated for 2% of the total affected area with grade III burns. Donor sites were covered with Xe-Derma® dressing. Healing of donor sites was uncomplicated in the postoperative course. Xe-Derma® was removed on postoperative day 10, when the donor sites were almost completely healed, with approx. 2 cm<sup>2</sup> of areas still moist and weeping. These were treated with Betadine® ointment and healed within three days. The wound was completely healed on postoperative day 13. The patient was discharged to receive home care with no need for further follow-up.

**Total Treatment Duration:** 10 days  
**Total Number of Xe-Derma® Applications:** 1



Fig. 1-2: Donor sites prior to Xe-Derma® application



Fig. 3: Donor sites immediately after Xe-Derma® application



Fig. 4: Postoperative day 4

  
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**Fig. 5:** Postoperative day 10, status before Xe-Derma® removal



**Fig. 6:** Postoperative day 10, status before Xe-Derma® removal



**Fig. 7:** Postoperative day 10, status immediately after Xe-Derma® removal



**Fig. 8:** Postoperative day 11, status one day after Xe-Derma® removal. Residual areas are treated with Betadine® ointment. Donor sites were completely healed on postoperative day 13.

## Technique used to cover donor sites with Xe-Derma® dressing in our center

Upon harvesting a dermo-epidermal graft, a dressing with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> is applied to the donor sites to stop bleeding; this is followed by Xe-Derma® application. Another layer consists of tulle grass, gauze, and an elastic dressing to minimize the risk for capillary bleeding and hematoma formation. On the first dressing replacement post-op (day 2), only the gauze cover is replaced, with the tulle grass left behind not to traumatize the wound base. In cases with an uncomplicated course, the dressing is replaced at an interval of 3–4 days, when the gauze and tulle grass are also removed. The Xe-Derma® dressing is left on the wound not to interfere with the course of epithelization. Use of this technique helps to substantially reduce the pain experienced during dressing replacement. The Xe-Derma® dressing is subsequently covered with only a thin layer of gauze. In the adult patient, donor sites usually take 10–14 days to heal.