

## Post Surgical Diaper Area Skin Care

If your child has had a surgery to reconnect the bowel and allowing stool to pass from the rectum, it is likely that he or she will experience diaper rashes that may lead to skin breakdown. A little preventive skin care will minimize the amount of breakdown.

### **Following Surgery**

Once your child begins having bowel movements, it is very important to protect the skin of the diaper area from the irritating effects of frequent, loose stools. A good product to use is 3M NO STRING BARRIER FILM®. This product is applied once daily to clean dry skin, usually after a bath. Barrier film should be placed directly on red areas, including any rash or open sores. Begin at the anal opening, swiping out in a circle about one or two inches from the anus, where stool may come in contact with skin. The product goes on wet and dries in about one minute. While it is drying, hold the buttocks apart and don't allow skin-to-skin contact until completely dry. Once the barrier film is dry, ILEX® paste or butt balm can be applied as directed over the barrier film. Butt balm should be applied thickly (1/8 inch) to the diaper area. After each stool, remove the stool from the paste but do not completely remove paste from the skin. Reapply the butt balm. Once a day, before your baby's bath, gently remove the paste with mineral oil being careful not to rub the skin. Continue using butt balm until the skin is healed and the frequency of stool decreases.

To make butt balm, mix one large tube of DESITIN® and STOMAHESIVE® powder (1 ounce) and NYSTATIN® (antifungal) powder (15cc or 1/2 ounce) together.

ILEX® paste also is very helpful for open sores. Ilex® can be used instead of butt balm and should be applied to a clean diaper area where broken skin is present and covered with Vaseline. After each stool, remove the stool from the paste but don't completely remove the paste from the skin. Reapply Ilex and Vaseline. Continue until broken down skin areas are healed and the frequency of stool decreases.

### **Discharge and At Home**

It will take several months before your child's diaper area is conditioned to bowel movements.

Use the paste as long as frequent stooling occurs. ILEX® is available from:

- MEDCON Biolab --- (800) 443-6332
- The local distributor of 3M No String Barrier Film® can be found by calling: 3M --- (800)228-3957

ILEX® is an over-the-counter paste and no prescription is required. Stomahesive® powder, Nystatin® and 3M® powder require a prescription and may need to be ordered from your local pharmacy or home care supplier.

### **Remember**

- A tub bath may be given two days after surgery. Soak the paste off, give the bath, pat the skin dry and reapply paste.
- Use mineral oil and a cotton ball to gently remove paste or stool from skin.
- Always apply the paste thickly.
- Air drying with a hairdryer set at cool is very useful when the skin is intact and the child's diaper area can be left open.

- Change diapers frequently.
- If your child is taking solids, foods such as rice, cereal, applesauce and bananas may help thicken stool.
- Call for advice if skin breakdown persists and there is no improvement. –(415) 476-2538

***This information is for educational purposes only and is not intended to replace the advice of your physician or health care provider. We encourage you to discuss with your physician any questions and concerns you may have.***