

## **Title: Foam Dressing for Patients with Tracheostomy Tube Care**

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### **Background:**

The tracheostomy tube care is a special nursing care procedure because of its long term airway. Normally the tracheostomy skin care is normal saline cleansing and Y-gauzes covering around the hole with twice daily and as needed dressing changes. Over moisture from secretions, perspiration, pressure and friction from the collar and stabilization ties may contribute peri-tube skin breakdown. Otherwise frequent dressing changes produced suffering from pain and excessive cough that risk to tube sliding out. To solve above mentioned problems, wound care nurses changed to dress with the foam dressing which is soft, high ability to absorb, and less dressing change.

**Objective:** To report case studies comparison between the Tegaderm<sup>TM</sup> Foam Dressing (Nonadhesive) and gauze in tracheostomy tube dressing.

**Method:** Total 10 patients with tracheostomy tube that admitted in Male Regular Medical Ward at Nopparat Rajathanee Hospital. They were observed and recorded data on time of dressing change, pain and irritating, total cost, peri-tube skin breakdown, and infection. All 10 cases had been cared by gauze dressing before changed to the foam dressing.

**Results:** Average age was 66.8 years old. The average of foam dressing changed was 3 days that provide less pain and irritating due to reducing dressing change. Total cost of foam dressing is \$ 8 per 3days respectively less than gauze \$18 per

3 days (6 times dressing change). No patients had skin breakdown and infection from both practices.

**Conclusions:** Using foam dressing is the choice of tracheostomy tube care because of fewer dressing change, decrease cost and material, save caring time, and also less pain and irritating.

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