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Curad Silver Bandages

Lead author: Joseph A. Woelfel, Ph.D., FASCP, R.Ph., Assistant Editor

Introduction

Curad is introducing a new line of bandages with silver in the wound pad. *Curad Silver* is the first bandage using silver as an antibacterial. It was just released in Canada as *SilverHealing*. Other medicated bandages use benzalkonium chloride or polymyxin B combined with bacitracin zinc.¹

Silver is used medicinally for its broad-spectrum antibacterial properties and lack of organism resistance. It is used in Foley or dialysis catheters, disinfectant applicators, burn ointments, and in the past as a solution for preventing ophthalmia neonatorum.^{2,3,4} It had been used as a silver foil dressing for wounds until after World War II and was listed in the Physician's Desk Reference until 1955.⁵

Products, Ingredients, and Uses

Curad Silver is available in two product lines. Their bandages contain silver 60 to 460 mg/m² of pad, whereas the gel bandage contains 0.003% silver oxide.⁶

All products are indicated for application to minor cuts, scrapes, abrasions, lacerations, and scalds. The gel product is formulated with a semi-occlusive wound pad and a multi-day hold bandage adhesive.⁶

Efficacy

Laboratory tests showed that silver in the bandage pad reduced antibacterial growth (*S. aureus*, *E. coli*, *E. hirae*, and *P. aeruginosa*) for 24 hours, and for 48 hours with the gel bandage.⁶ No comparative or clinical outcome studies are available. Comparative studies with other antibacterial pad bandages are not available.

Safety

In Curad trials, no allergic reactions to the

silver pad components were reported. However, the packaging of the product contains natural rubber latex which can cause reactions.

The products have not caused any staining of skin or clothing.

Cost

Curad Silver bandages are priced about the same as an antibiotic or antibacterial pad bandage ranging from \$0.18 to \$0.20 per bandage. Antibacterial containing bandages generally cost five to seven times that of a regular adhesive bandage. The special *Curad Silver Gel* bandage costs approximately \$0.62 to \$0.77 each depending on the supplier.¹

Manufacturer

Beiersdorf North America, Inc.
Wilton, CT 06897-4122
203-563-5800
www.curadus.com

Conclusions

These silver containing bandages, like other antibacterial pad bandages, offer another choice for consumers desiring to avoid the application of an antibacterial cream or ointment to a regular bandage.

After cleaning a wound with mild soap and water and drying, most superficial wounds may simply require the application of an adhesive bandage. Whenever there is a question of wound cleanliness, an antibacterial bandage or regular bandage plus antibacterial ointment or cream is recommended.⁷

More . . .

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