



UNIVERSITY

**CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL  
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# A NEW STANDARD OF CARE: PROTECTION OF SKIN TEARS IN NEONATES AND INFANTS WITH WOUNDS

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# Introduction

Neonates and infants are more susceptible to epidermal stripping and skin tears due to an immature epidermal-dermal bond.

The aim of this practice development project was therefore to introduce strategies to decrease epidermal stripping in neonates and infants with wounds.



# Scope of problem

- Neonates and infants with wounds are a vulnerable population in pediatric health care.
- Wound care products and dressings are most of the time not tested and evaluated in these small children and can cause additional harm when further traumatize the fragile skin in these patients.



# Intervention

- Use **adhesive remover** (gentle & testes on babies skin) in all pediatric patients to remove dressings or adhesive products
- **Clean wound/ skin gentle** (no additional friction)
- Disinfection of the wound as standard
- For skin lesions around wounds: **film dressings for skin prevention**
- Use dressings which are non traumatic, tailored, easy to handle & easy to apply, visible and allow long intervals for dressing changes



# Conclusion

- Wound care products must be adapted for pediatric use and closely monitored especially in neonates and infants with immature skin.
- Stratagel-based\* dressings/films are save for fragile pediatric skin when it comes to woundtreatment and skin tears prevention.



All photos of patients used with permission.

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– \* Xtrata TM Transparent Film Dressings with Stratagel TM Technology