

Appendix S: Dressing Categories and Indications for Use

Modern Dressing Category	Comment	Average Wear Time
Hydrogels ^a	Contain 70%-90% moisture	1–3 d
Donate moisture	Donates moisture to the wound	
	Bioresorbable	
	Can be combined with silver, iodine (cadexomer) for antimicrobial action	
Films ^a	Protective layer	3–7 d
Moisture neutral	Does not donate or absorb a large amount of exudate	
Hydrocolloids ^a	Water-binding and water-repelling components	2–7 d
	Will absorb small to moderate amount of moisture	
Hydrofibers	Bind small to moderate amount of exudate	1–3 d
	Fluid lock, nonbioresorbable	
	Can be combined with silver for antimicrobial action	
Calcium alginates ^a	Absorb small to moderate amounts of exudate onto outer surface of dressing	1–3 d
	Fibers are bioresorbable, releasing calcium (hemostasis property) and resorbing sodium to form a hydrogel with exudate fluid	
	Can be combined with silver and honey for antibacterial action	
Foams	Absorb moderate amount of exudate	2–7 d
	Fluid balance with the dressing giving back some exudate that prevents wound surface from dehydrating	
	Can be a method of delivering an antibacterial agent (silver) or containing a nonrelease antibacterial agent for antibacterial action above the wound surface (PHMB, methylene blue/gentian violet)	
Superabsorbents	Absorb moderate amount of exudate	1–3 d
	Fluid lock technology equivalent to diapers	

^aAlso provides autolytic debridement properties.
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Product Picker Dressing Selection Guide

This is not an exhaustive list of wound dressings, but rather suggestions of information identified within the systematic review, AGREE II appraised guidelines, by the expert panel or external stakeholder feedback.

http://cawc.net/images/uploads/store/UPDATED_Product_Picker.pdf

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