

Appendix Q: Topical Antimicrobial Agents

TOPICAL ANTIMICROBIAL AGENTS									
	AGENT	SPECTRUM							COMMENT
		SA	MRSA	Strep	PS	F	Anaerobic	VRE	
SAFE AND EFFECTIVE	A. Cadexomer iodine paste/ ointment	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Broad spectrum, lower cytotoxicity ■ Effective for fungi, virus, bacteria* ■ Widely available* ■ Requires wound contact* ■ Caution if thyroid medication*
	B. Iodine in polyethylene glycol base – Tulle								
	Ionized Silver (NB. Silver dressings are anti-inflammatory)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Broad spectrum, lower cytotoxicity ■ Effective for fungi, virus, bacteria ■ Widely available ■ Requires wound contact
	Silver Sulphadiazine cream	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
	Polymyxin B Bacitracin cream/ ointment	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Requires wound contact ■ Either antibiotic may be an allergen

TOPICAL ANTIMICROBIAL AGENTS									
SELECTIVE USE	AGENT	SPECTRUM							COMMENT
		SA	MRSA	Strep	PS	F	Anaerobic	VRE	
	Metronidazole Gel/lotion/cream (anti-inflammatory)						✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reserve for anaerobes and odour control
	Benzyl Peroxide gel/lotion	✓		✓	✓		✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reserve for MRSA/ other resistant Gram positive organisms May be allergen
	Acetic Acid				✓				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use 0.5% /1% short contact (5-10min) Especially pseudomonas/other Gram negative
	Mupuricin cream/ointment	✓	✓	✓					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should be reserved for MRSA
	Povidine Iodine solution	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use with caution. This agent has moderate cytotoxic activity Use for maintenance non healable wounds *see other properties above*
	Chlorhexidine solution	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use for maintenance, non healable wounds

	AGENT	SPECTRUM							COMMENT
		SA	MRSA	Strep	PS	F	Anaerobic	VRE	
CAUTION	PolyHexaMethalen Biguanide (PHMB) foam, gauze, ribbon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Safer than chlohexadine
	Gentamycin cream/ointment	✓		✓	✓				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Caution resistance: Reserve for IV use
	Fucidic Acid cream/ointment	✓	✓	✓					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ May sensitize, especially the ointment (lanolin base)
	Polymixin B Bacitracin Neomycin ointment	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Potential sensitizer, especially neomycin ■ Cream formulations contain gramicidin instead of bacitracin
NOT RECOMMENDED	Alcohol Hydrogen Peroxide Hypochlorite solution (Dakin's/Hygeol)								<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Cytotoxic with antimicrobial action ■ Weaker than other product choices

Legend: (SA=Staphylococcus Aureus), (MRSA=Methicillin Resistant Staph Aureus), (Strep=Streptococci), (PS=Pseudomonas), (F=Fungi –Mucor, Aspergillus, Candida Albicans, Candida Topicalis, Candida Glabrata, & Saccharomyces), (VRE=Vancomycin- Resistant Enterococci).
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