3M™ Surgical Tapes
3M Health Care

# For superior performance, look no further.

## Trust, dependability and quality you expect from 3M.

The guide to taping from the leader in adhesive technology.

3M

*For more than 40 years, 3M Health Care has provided the finest in skin health care. And with our full line of surgical tapes and support programs, we are once again setting the standards for skin care into the 21st century and delivering the trust, dependability and quality you expect.*

***For superior performance, look no further than 3M™ Surgical Tapes.***

**Our products are:**

**Safe as demonstrated by:**

- Human Cumulative Irritation Patch Testing
- Human Repeat Insult Patch Testing

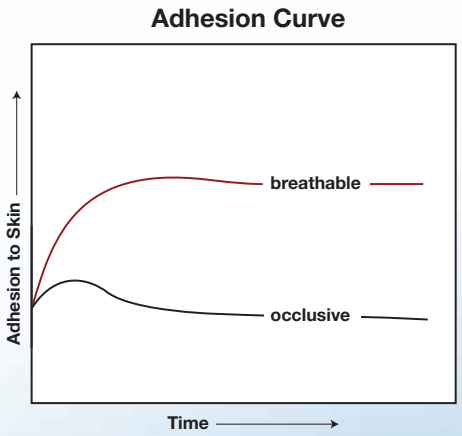
**Effective as demonstrated by:**

- Extensive testing on human volunteers
- Product evaluations in clinical settings

**3M™ Pressure Sensitive Adhesives**

All 3M™ Surgical Tapes have adhesives that are:

- Hypoallergenic
- Latex free
- Pressure sensitive (adhere with only finger or hand pressure)
- Designed to be as gentle as possible and yet provide desired performance




In general, tape adhesion builds over time, with the fastest rate of increase during the first 24 hours.

Use this booklet and educational materials to guide your selection of tape products to give the desired result: the safe, effective secural of devices and dressings with minimal risk of skin damage.

Trust, dependability and quality you expect from 3M.

# Table of Contents

# How to Differentiate 3M™ Surgical Tapes

All 3M surgical tapes have adhesives that are hypoallergenic and natural rubber latex free.
This table describes their characteristics in relationship to each other.

| Characteristics | 3M™ Blenderm™ Tape | 3M™ Cloth Adhesive Tape | 3M™ Durapore™ Tape | 3M™ Medipore™ Tape | 3M™ Medipore™ H Tape | 3M™ Microfoam™ Tape | 3M™ Micropore™ Tape | 3M™ Transpore™ Tape | 3M™ Transpore™ White Tape |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| General category | *Plastic* | *Cloth* | *"Silk"* | *Soft cloth* | *Soft cloth* | *Foam/elastic* | *Paper* | *Perforated plastic* | *Blend* |
| Backing | *Transparent Polyethylene* | *Woven cotton* | *Taffeta acetate* | *Polyester* | *Polyester* | *Closed cell PVC* | *Nonwoven rayon* | *Transparent Polyethylene* | *Polyester-rayon blend* |
| Adhesion – initial* | Dry – moderate<br>Moist – low | Dry – very high<br>Moist – high | Dry – high<br>Moist – high | Dry – moderate<br>Moist – moderate | Dry – high Moist – moderate | Dry – low Moist – low | Dry – low Moist – high | Dry – high Moist – moderate | Dry – high<br>Moist – moderate |
| Adhesion – after 48 hrs* | Low | High | Very High | High | Very High | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate |
| Conformability | High | Moderate | Moderate | High | High | High | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate |
| Stretch | Moderate in all directions | Diagonal | Diagonal | Crosswise & Diagonal | Crosswise & Diagonal | Crosswise, Lengthwise & Diagonal | Diagonal | Moderate, more stretch if narrow strips | Diagonal |
| Breathability<br>*MVTR = moisture vapour transmission rate & porosity* | None | High | Low | High | High | None | Very High | Low | High |
| Tearability | Easy, but ruffled edge | Easy,<br>bi-directional | Easy,<br>bi-directional | Easy at perforations, not lengthwise | Easy at perforations, not lengthwise | Easy | Easy | Very easy, bi-directional | Easy,<br>bi-directional |
| Water resistance | Waterproof | No | Water Resistant | Water Resistant | Water Resistant | Water Resistant | No | Water Resistant | Water Resistant |
| Gentleness<br>*Repeated taping on adults* | Less Gentle | Less Gentle | Less Gentle | Less Gentle | Very Gentle | Gentle | Very Gentle | Less Gentle | Gentle |
| Residue<br>*Depends on length of wear, temperature, characteristics of surface (increases with oil, plastic tubing)* | None – small amount | Small amount | None – small amount | None – small amount | None – small amount | Small amount | Small amount | Moderate amount | Small amount |
| Shelf life | 5 years | 2 years | 5 years | 3 years | 3 years | 3 years | 5 years | 3 years | 3 years |

** See adhesion charts*

# 3M™ Transpore™ White Dressing Tape

Gentle tape with strong adhesion and easy, bi-directional tear for dressing applications.

*Chest incision dressing*

*Abdominal incision dressing*

*Finger splint*


## Features and benefits

- Gentle to skin
- Easy, straight bi-directional tear
- Good initial and long-term (72 hours) adhesion
- Holds well on damp or dry skin
- Sticks well to itself (overtaping)
- Easy to handle with gloves
- Minimal edge lift during wear
- Breathable to maintain skin integrity
- Hypoallergenic and latex free
- Water-resistant

## Suggested applications

- Securing dressings to damp or dry skin
- Taping fragile, at-risk skin
- When repeated taping is needed
- Anchoring tubing and devices
- When tape width must be customized

## Ordering Information

| Cat. No. | Size | Rolls/Box | Boxes/Case |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3M™ Transpore™ White Dressing Tape | | | |
| 1534-0 | 1/2 in. x 10 yd./1,25 cm x 9,14 m | 24 | 10 |
| 1534-1 | 1 in. x 10 yd./2,5 cm x 9,14 m | 12 | 10 |
| 1534-2 | 2 in. x 10 yd./5,0 cm x 9,14 m | 6 | 10 |
| 1534-3 | 3 in. x 10 yd./7,5 cm x 9,14 m | 4 | 10 |

# 3M™ Medipore™ Soft Cloth Surgical Tape

Soft, gentle, conformable tape and pre-cut pad products that are easy-to-use and easy on the skin.

*Perforated – easy to tear*

*Epidural tubing*

*Axillary abscess dressing*


## Features and benefits

- Easy-tear perforated rolls
- Gentle, breathable to maintain skin integrity
- Excellent cross and diagonal stretch
- Easy to handle – no curling or self-adhesion
- No paper liner on roll tapes
- Hypoallergenic and latex free
- Water-resistant

## Suggested applications

- Securing dressings and ostomy pouches to fragile skin
- When repeated taping is needed
- Anchoring post-surgical dressings
- Used as retentive sheeting over gauze
- Securing over areas where skin may stretch (e.g., edema, distention, hematoma formation or movement)

## Ordering Information

| Cat. No. | Size | Rolls/Box | Boxes/Case |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3M™ Medipore™ Soft Cloth Surgical Tape | | | |
| 2961 | 1 in. x 10 yd./2,5 cm x 9,14 m | 24 | 1 |
| 2962 | 2 in. x 10 yd./5,0 cm x 9,14 m | 12 | 1 |
| 2963 | 3 in. x 10 yd./7,5 cm x 9,14 m | 12 | 1 |
| 2964 | 4 in. x 10 yd./10 cm x 9,14 m | 12 | 1 |
| 2966 | 6 in. x 10 yd./15 cm x 9,14 m | 12 | 1 |
| 2968 | 8 in. x 10 yd./20 cm x 9,14 m | 6 | 1 |
| 2962S | 2 in. x 2 yd./5,0 cm x 1,8 m | 48 | 1 |
| 2964S | 4 in. x 2 yd./10,1 cm x 1,8 m | 24 | 1 |
| 2966S | 6 in. x 2 yd./15,2 cm x 1,8 m | 16 | 1 |

# 3M™ Medipore™ H Soft Cloth Surgical Tape

The same soft, conformable tape as standard Medipore™ tape, but with increased gentleness and stronger adhesion for more challenging applications.

*Bunionectomy dressing*

*Sacral dressing*

*Hip dressing*


## Features and benefits

Same features and benefits as 3M™ Medipore™ Tape plus:

- Gentler
- Higher adhesion
- More breathable
- Water-resistant

## Suggested applications

- When repeated taping is needed
- Securing over areas where skin may stretch (e.g., edema, distention, hematoma formation or movement)

## Ordering Information

| Cat. No. | Size | Rolls/Box | Boxes/Case |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3M™ Medipore™ H Soft Cloth Surgical Tape | | | |
| 2861 | 1 in. x 10 yd./2,5 cm x 9,14 m | 24 | 1 |
| 2862 | 2 in. x 10 yd./5,0 cm x 9,14 m | 12 | 1 |
| 2863 | 3 in. x 10 yd./7,5 cm x 9,14 m | 12 | 1 |
| 2864 | 4 in. x 10 yd./10 cm x 9,14 m | 12 | 1 |
| 2866 | 6 in. x 10 yd./15 cm x 9,14 m | 12 | 1 |
| 2868 | 8 in. x 10 yd./20 cm x 9,14 m | 6 | 1 |
| 2862S | 2 in. x 2 yd./5,0 cm x 1,8 m | 48 | 1 |
| 2864S | 4 in. x 2 yd./10 cm x 1,8 m | 24 | 1 |
| 2866S | 6 in. x 2 yd./15 cm x 1,8 m | 16 | 1 |

# 3M™ Micropore™ Surgical Tape

Highly versatile and economical paper tape.

*Jackson-Pratt and tubing*

*Ostomy pouch*

*Post-op eye dressing*


## Features and benefits

- Gentle to skin
- Porous
- Highly breathable to maintain skin integrity
- Holds well on damp skin
- Conformable
- Hypoallergenic and latex free

## Suggested applications

- Securing small to medium dressings especially on damp skin
- Securing lightweight tubing
- Securing ostomy pouches
- Taping fragile, at-risk skin
- When repeated taping is needed

## Ordering Information

| Cat. No. | Size | Rolls/Box | Boxes/Case |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3M™ Micropore™ Surgical Tape | | | |
| Standard: | | | |
| 1530-0 | 1/2 in. x 10 yd./1,25 cm x 9,14 m | 24 | 10 |
| 1530-1 | 1 in. x 10 yd./2,5 cm x 9,14 m | 12 | 10 |
| 1530-2 | 2 in. x 10 yd./5,0 cm x 9,14 m | 6 | 10 |
| 1530-3 | 3 in. x 10 yd./7,5 cm x 9,14 m | 4 | 10 |
| Single Use: | | | |
| 1530S-1 | 1 in. x 1-1/2 yd./2,5 cm x 1,37 m | 100 | 5 |
| 1530S-2 | 2 in. x 1-1/2 yd./5,0 cm x 1,37 m | 50 | 5 |
| Tan: | | | |
| 1533-0 | 1/2 in. x 10 yd./1,25 cm x 9,14 m | 24 | 10 |
| 1533-1 | 1 in. x 10 yd./2,5 cm x 9,14 m | 12 | 10 |
| 1533-2 | 2 in. x 10 yd./5,0 cm x 9,14 m | 6 | 10 |
| Dispenser Pack: | | | |
| 1535-0 | 1/2 in. x 10 yd./1,25 cm x 9,14 m | 24 | 10 |
| 1535-1 | 1 in. x 10 yd./2,5 cm x 9,14 m | 12 | 10 |
| 1535-2 | 2 in. x 10 yd./5,0 cm x 9,14 m | 6 | 10 |
| 1535-3 | 3 in. x 10 yd./7,5 cm x 9,14 m | 4 | 10 |

# 3M™ Transpore™ Surgical Tape

Transparent, perforated plastic tape that tears easily, works reliably.

*Easy to tear, even with gloves*

*Peripheral IV tubing*

*Eye shield*


## Features and benefits

- Easy, straight, bi-directional tear
- Allows clinician to tailor the tape for various dressings and devices
- Porous
- Easy to handle with gloves
- Good adhesion to skin and tubing
- Transparent
- Hypoallergenic and latex free
- Water-resistant

## Suggested applications

- Securing tubing and devices (e.g., catheters, IV tubing)
- Anchoring bulky dressings
- When tape width must be customized

## Ordering Information

| Cat. No. | Size | Rolls/Box | Boxes/Case |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3M™ Transpore™ Surgical Tape | | | |
| 1527-0 | 1/2 in. x 10 yd./1,25 cm x 9,14 m | 24 | 10 |
| 1527-1 | 1 in. x 10 yd./2,5 cm x 9,14 m | 12 | 10 |
| 1527-2 | 2 in. x 10 yd./5,0 cm x 9,14 m | 6 | 10 |
| 1527-3 | 3 in. x 10 yd./7,5 cm x 9,14 m | 4 | 10 |
| 1527S-1 | 1 in. x 1-1/2 yd./2,5 cm x 1,37 m | 100 | 5 |
| 1527S-2 | 2 in. x 1-1/2 yd./5,0 cm x 1,37 m | 50 | 5 |

# 3M™ Durapore™ Surgical Tape

Silk-like cloth tape with strong adhesion that won't let you down.

*Catheters*

*Armboard*

*Butterfly splint*


## Features and benefits

- High strength
- Adheres well to dry skin
- Conformable
- Convenient bi-directional tear
- Versatile
- Hypoallergenic and latex free
- Water-resistant

## Suggested applications

- Securing tubing and devices
- Anchoring bulky dressings
- Immobilizing fingers and toes
- Stabilizing finger splints

## Ordering Information

| Cat. No. | Size | Rolls/Box | Boxes/Case |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3M™ Durapore™ Surgical Tape | | | |
| 1538-0 | 1/2 in. x 10 yd./1,25 cm x 9,14 m | 24 | 10 |
| 1538-1 | 1 in. x 10 yd./2,5 cm x 9,14 m | 12 | 10 |
| 1538-2 | 2 in. x 10 yd./5,0 cm x 9,14 m | 6 | 10 |
| 1538-3 | 3 in. x 10 yd./7,5 cm x 9,14 m | 4 | 10 |
| 1538S-1 | 1 in. x 1-1/2 yd./2,5 cm x 1,37 m | 100 | 5 |
| 1538S-2 | 2 in. x 1-1/2 yd./5,0 cm x 1,37 m | 50 | 5 |

# 3M™ Cloth Adhesive Tape

Strong, easy-to-tear tape for securing medical devices and for light immobilization support.

*NG tube*

*ET tube*

*Immobilization*

## Features and benefits

- Strong backing
- High initial adhesion
- Economical and easy-to-use
- Less residue
- Good restick
- Tears easily crosswise and lengthwise
- Hypoallergenic and latex free

## Suggested applications

- Securing tubing
- Positioning body parts
- Immobilizing fingers and toes
- Stabilizing finger splints

## Ordering Information

| Cat. No. | Size | Rolls/Box | Boxes/Case |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3M™ Cloth Adhesive Tape | | | |
| 2950-0 | 1/2 in. x 10 yd./1,25 cm x 9,14 m | 24 | 10 |
| 2950-1 | 1 in. x 10 yd./2,5 cm x 9,14 m | 12 | 10 |
| 2950-2 | 2 in. x 10 yd./5,0 cm x 9,14 m | 6 | 10 |
| 2950-3 | 3 in. x 10 yd./7,5 cm x 9,14 m | 4 | 10 |

# 3M™ Microfoam™ Surgical Tape

Highly conformable, elastic foam tape that stretches for compression applications or securing dressings on challenging areas.

*Hip dressing*

*Rotator cuff dressing*

*Mastectomy dressing*


## Features and benefits

- Multi-direction stretch to accommodate swelling and promote comfort
- Conforms readily
- Gentle, secure adhesion to irregularly contoured sites
- Water-resistant
- Hypoallergenic and latex free

## Suggested applications

- Securing dressings on sites where movement is likely such as over joints and other challenging areas
- Securing compression dressings to assist in hemostasis or control edema (e.g., cardiovascular/angio sites, breast biopsies, orthopedic, thoracic and abdominal surgical dressings)
- Provides cushioning as needed

As with all tapes, 3M™ Microfoam™ Tape should not be stretched over exposed skin. Microfoam™ tape may be stretched over dressings or bandages to provide compression.

See page 20 for proper application.

## Ordering Information

| Cat. No. | Size | Rolls/Box | Boxes/Case |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3M™ Microfoam™ Surgical Tape | | | |
| 1528-1 | 1 in. x 5-1/2 yd./2,5 cm x 5 m* | 12 | 6 |
| 1528-2 | 2 in. x 5-1/2 yd./5,0 cm x 5 m* | 6 | 6 |
| 1528-3 | 3 in. x 5-1/2 yd./7,5 cm x 5 m* | 4 | 6 |
| 1528-4 | 4 in. x 5-1/2 yd./10,1 cm x 5 m* | 3 | 6 |

* Stretched length

# 3M™ Blenderm™ Surgical Tape

Occlusive, transparent plastic tape that protects from external fluids and contaminants.

*Occlusive dressing*


*Patch testing*

## Features and benefits

- Transparent
- Waterproof barrier
- Flexible
- Hypoallergenic and latex free

## Suggested applications

- Protecting dressings from external moisture, fluids and contaminants
- Enhancing penetration of topical medications
- Dermatological patch testing

## Ordering Information

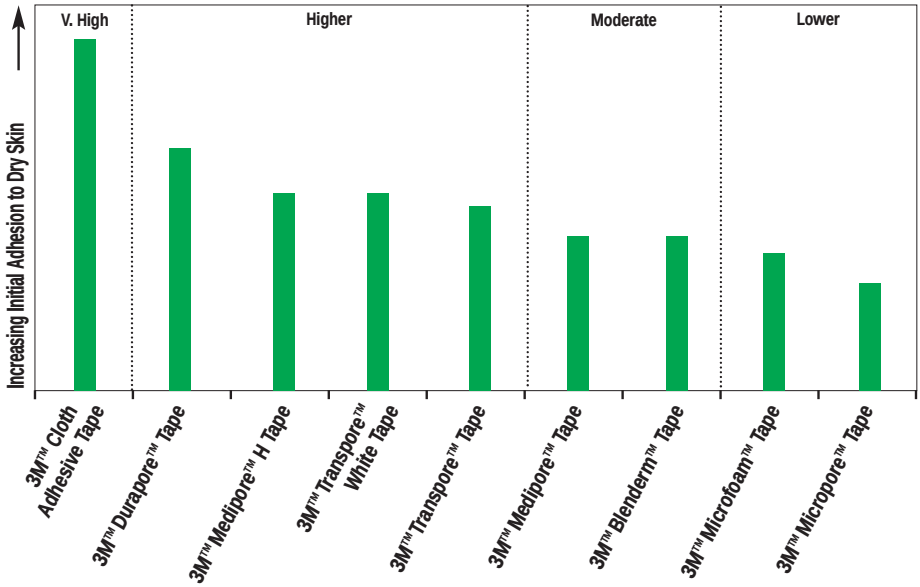
| Cat. No. | Size | Rolls/Box | Boxes/Case |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3M™ Blenderm™ Surgical Tape | | | |
| 1525-0 | 1/2 in. x 5 yd./1,25 cm x 4,5 m | 24 | 10 |
| 1525-1 | 1 in. x 5 yd./2,5 cm x 4,5 m | 12 | 10 |
| 1525-2 | 2 in. x 5 yd./5,0 cm x 4,5 m | 6 | 10 |

# Notes:

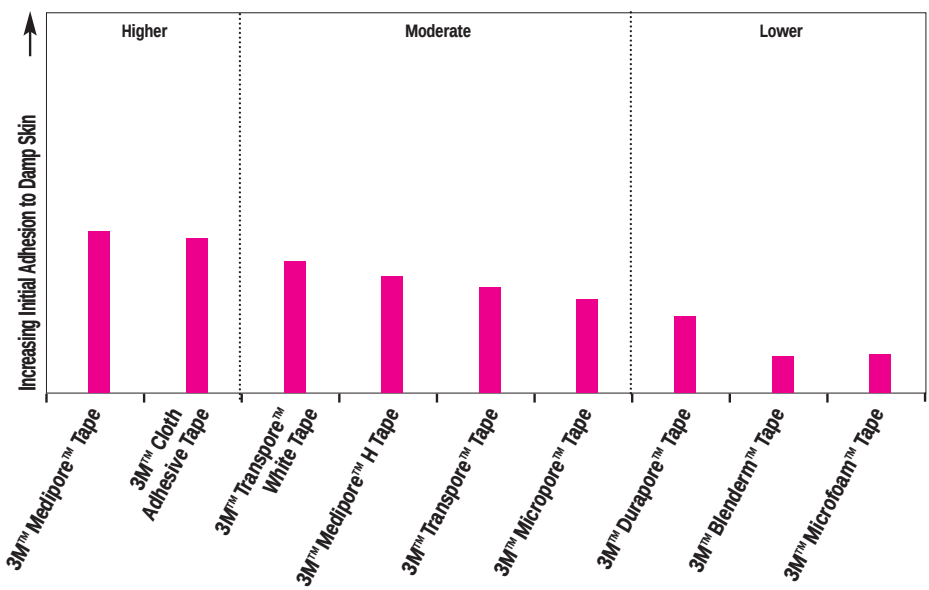
# Using Tape Effectively

## Information Summary

## Average Initial Adhesion to Dry Skin*

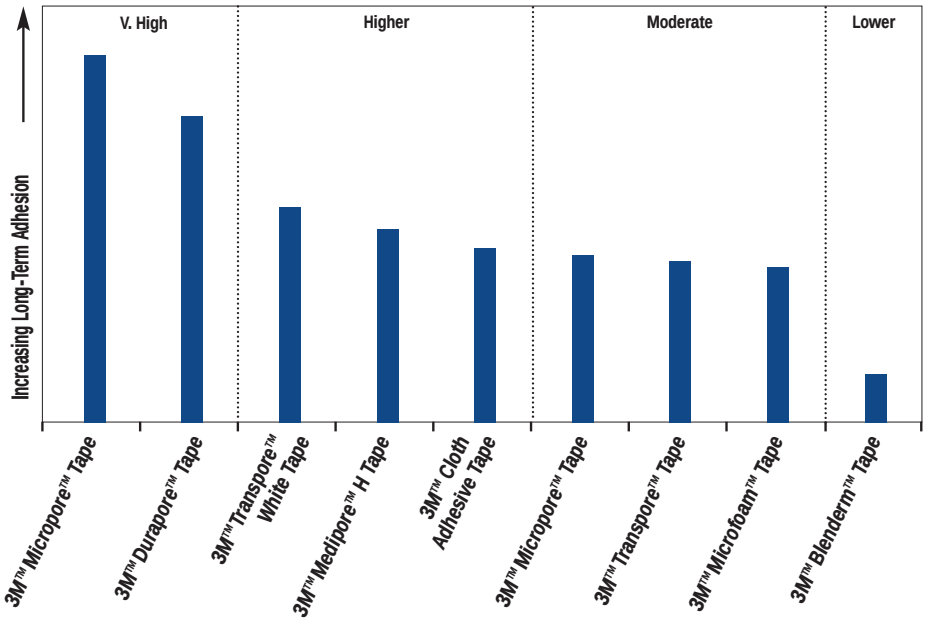



## Average Initial Adhesion to Damp Skin*

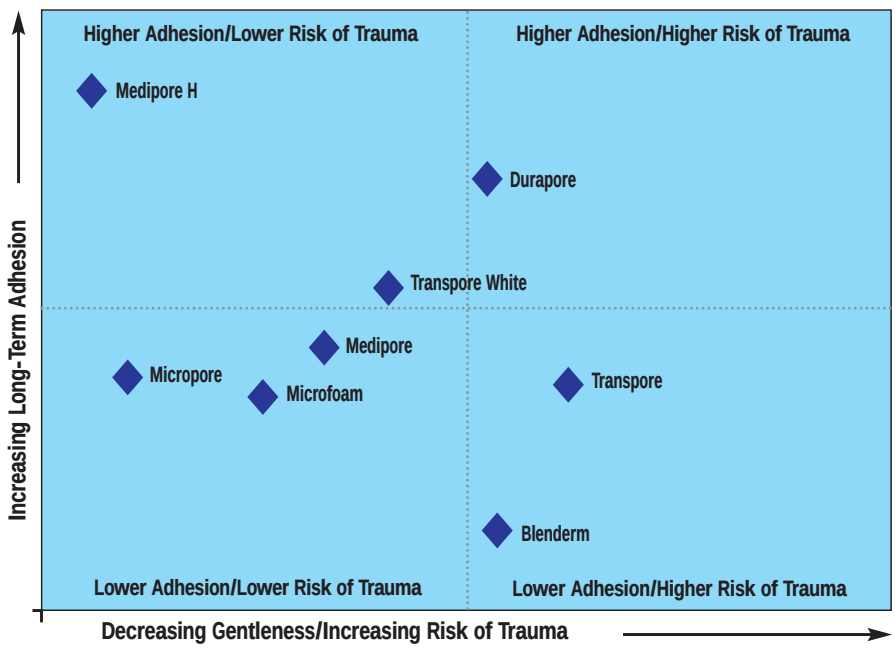



* Data on file at 3M.

## Average Long-Term Adhesion to Dry Skin (72 hrs.)*




## Relationship Between Adhesion and Risk of Skin Trauma*






* Data on file at 3M.

# Considerations in Choosing a Tape for Tube or Dressing Secural

## I. Degree of importance of tube or dressing

- The more critical the tubing/dressing, the higher the adhesion required.
- Strength of adhesion and backing may be more important than gentleness.
- Gentle tapes with higher adhesion may be used without increasing the risk of skin trauma if properly applied and removed.
- Some tapes are less gentle (e.g., 3M™ Durapore™ Tape and 3M™ Cloth Adhesive Tape) but are used for:
  - high initial adhesion
  - high long-term adhesion
  - high strength of backing

## II. Surface characteristics

| | |
|---|---|
| **Skin**<br>• Dry<br>• Damp<br>• Diaphoretic<br>• Wet: secretions, leaking tubes<br>• Weeping<br>• Macerated<br>• Oily<br>• Hairy<br>• Edematous<br>• Intact vs. impaired skin integrity<br>• Elastic vs. non-elastic<br>• Fragile skin (elderly, very young)<br>• "At-risk" (e.g., patient on systemic corticosteroids, chemotherapy; malnourished)<br>• Flexing | **Dressing**<br>• Material<br>• Weight<br>• Conformability<br>**Device**<br>• Contour<br>• Weight<br>• Material: metal, plastic, other<br>**Tubing**<br>• Diameter: small, large<br>• Texture: smooth, ribbed, other<br>• Material: PVC, silicone, other<br>• Weight<br>• Length<br>• Potential for drag or pull<br>• Other support (e.g., sutures, tunnelling) |

- Heavy tubings require higher adhesion.
- Bulky dressings require high conformability and may require greater adhesion.
- Individual results may vary.

## III. Activity level of patient

The more active the patient, the higher the adhesion required.

## IV. Potential for skin surface distention or movement

The risk of skin damage may be reduced by using tapes that stretch with skin distention or movement.

## V. Anticipated wear time

Tape adhesion generally builds over time. Occlusive plastic tapes promote moisture build up. They are best used short term since adhesion decreases over time. Breathable tapes should be used for longer-term wear.

## VI. History and current medical conditions

(e.g., allergies/sensitivities to medical adhesives, medications, medical conditions)

# Overview of the 3M™ Surgical Tapes

| | Lower Adhesion | Moderate Adhesion | Higher Adhesion | Very High Adhesion |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Dry Skin** | ***Microfoam***<br>**Micropore** | ***Medipore***<br>Blenderm | Durapore<br>***Medipore H***<br>**Transpore White**<br>Transpore | Cloth Adhesive |
| **Damp Skin** | Durapore<br>Blenderm<br>***Microfoam*** | **Transpore White**<br>***Medipore H***<br>Transpore<br>***Medipore*** | Cloth Adhesive<br>**Micropore** | |

**Key:** ***Tapes that stretch,*** **Very gentle tapes,** **Gentle tapes**

# 3M™ Surgical Tapes

**Table A** **When you need a tape that stretches** (e.g., anticipate edema, distention, hematoma formation or movement; compression)

| | Lower Adhesion | Moderate Adhesion | Higher Adhesion |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Dry Skin** | ***Microfoam*** | ***Medipore*** | ***Medipore H*** |
| **Damp Skin** | ***Microfoam*** | ***Medipore H***<br>***Medipore*** | |

**Table B** **General secural when stretch is not needed**

| | Lower Adhesion | Moderate Adhesion | Higher Adhesion | Very High Adhesion |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Dry Skin** | **Micropore** | Blenderm | Durapore<br>**Transpore White**<br>Transpore | Cloth Adhesive Tape |
| **Damp Skin** | Durapore<br>Blenderm | **Transpore White**<br>Transpore | **Micropore**<br>Cloth Adhesive Tape | |

"Stretchable" tapes such as: 3M™ Medipore™ Tape, 3M™ Medipore™ H Tape, and 3M™ Microfoam™ Tape may also be used for general secural (see Table A).

**Table C** **High-risk or delicate skin**

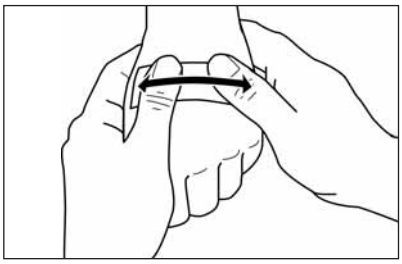
| | Lower Adhesion | Moderate Adhesion | Higher Adhesion |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Dry Skin** | ***Microfoam***<br>**Micropore** | ***Medipore*** | ***Medipore H***<br>**Transpore White** |
| **Damp Skin** | ***Microfoam*** | **Transpore White**<br>***Medipore H***<br>***Medipore*** | **Micropore** |

For critical tubings/dressings, strength of adhesion and backing may be more important than gentleness. (See pages 26-27 for ways to reduce the risk of superficial skin damage.)

**Key:**
***Italicized type = Tapes that stretch***
**Pink type = Very gentle tapes**
**Blue type = Gentle tapes**

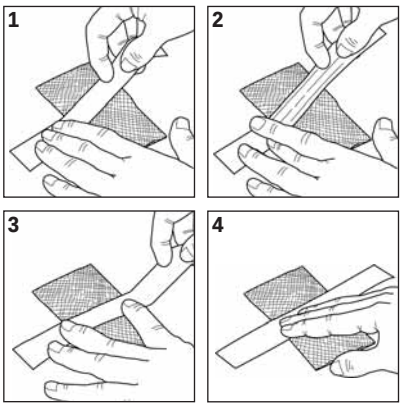
# Tape Application

1. Select the correct size and type of tape for the application.
2. Clip hair, if necessary.
3. Apply 3M™ Cavilon™ No Sting Barrier Film to protect at-risk skin. When thoroughly dry, tape may be applied over it.
4. Minimize touching of adhesive.
5. Apply tape without tension to clean, dry skin.
6. Smooth tape in place with smooth, gentle pressure. Avoid gaps and wrinkles. In general, do not encircle a limb completely with tape.
7. Rub in place to get a good seal.



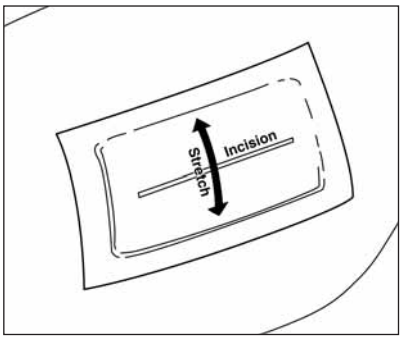
## A. General taping

Apply the tape without tension, gently but firmly stroking the surface to maximize adhesion. Tape should extend at least one-half inch beyond the dressing. Tape should not be pulled or stretched when applied. If swelling does occur, loosen and re-fasten or replace tape to relieve the tension.




## B. When compression is needed

1. Place first section of tape without tension onto skin on one side of the dressing, gently pressing downward.
2. With one hand, secure tape on one edge of the dressing while slightly stretching next section of tape over the dressing.
3. Secure tape on opposite edge of the dressing.
4. Press remaining tape onto skin without tension. Compression should come from the multiple layers of dressing material, not from excessive tension in the tape. Skin distention under tape may result in blistering and should be relieved as soon as possible.



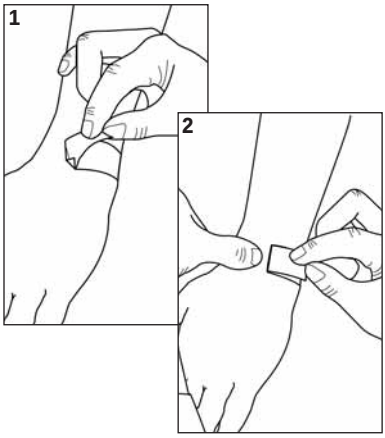

## C. When distention is anticipated

Use a tape that stretches or a self-adherent wrap to secure the dressing or tubing. Foam tapes generally stretch in all directions. Nonwoven soft cloth tapes, such as 3M™ Medipore™ Soft Cloth Surgical Tape, stretch in the cross-direction and on the bias. The direction of the stretch should be considered when securing a dressing or tubing to an area that is at high risk for distention, edema, hematoma formation, or movement. Anecdotally, applying soft cloth tape parallel to the incision appears to be associated with fewer skin tension injuries than taping perpendicular to the incision.

# Tape and Transparent Dressing Removal

Proper tape removal is critical in reducing the occurrence of traumatic skin injuries.

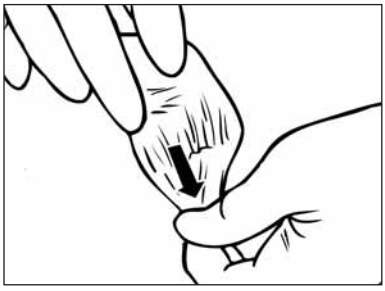
## A. Tape strips




1. Loosen edges of tape. If necessary, press a small piece of tape onto a corner to start an edge of the tape.
2. Stabilize the skin with one finger. Remove tape "low and slow" in direction of hair growth, keeping it close to skin surface and pulled back over itself. Removing tape at an angle will pull at the epidermis, increasing risk of mechanical trauma. As tape is removed, continue supporting newly-exposed skin.
3. For tape that is strongly adhered to skin or hair, you may consider using a medical grade adhesive remover or moisturizer to soften the adhesive along the peel line (peel edge).

## B. 3M™ Tegaderm™ Transparent Dressing

### Stretch method



- Grasp one edge or catch a "corner" of the 3M™ Tegaderm™ Dressing with a piece of tape.
- Gently lift edge.
- With other hand, place fingers on top of dressing to support skin.
- Gently stretch the Tegaderm™ dressing straight out and parallel to skin. This will release the adhesion of the dressing to the skin.

As the Tegaderm™ dressing is loosened, you may either (1) alternately stretch and relax the dressing or (2) "walk" your fingers under the dressing to continue stretching it. With both approaches, one hand continually supports the skin adhered to the Tegaderm™ dressing.

### Tape method

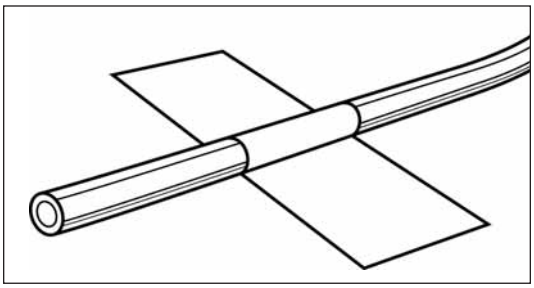
This procedure is similar to the method described for removing tape strips.

- Stabilize skin next to the Tegaderm™ dressing.
- With other hand, grasp one edge of the dressing.
- Slowly peel dressing back over itself, "low and slow," in direction of hair growth.

Removing dressing at an angle will pull at the epidermis, increasing risk of mechanical trauma. As dressing is removed, continue moving finger as necessary, supporting newly exposed skin.

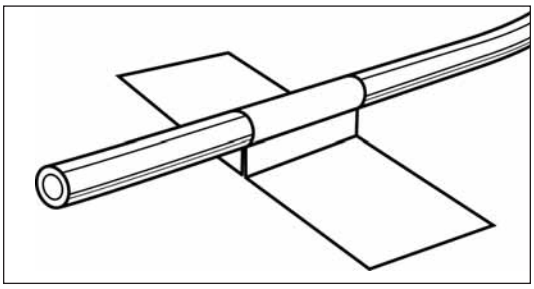
# Application Techniques: Tubing Secural

**Tape over**



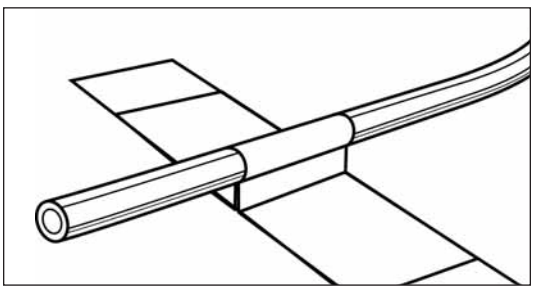
Used for short-term applications.
- Carefully place tape over tubing, adhesive side down, without creating pressure under the tubing.
- Press tape against tubing.

**Lift**



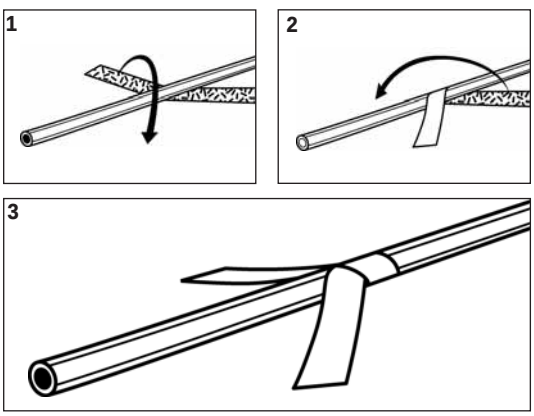
Used to reduce potential pressure under tubing.
- Centre tape over tubing: encircle tubing with tape.
- Where tape meets, pinch the two adhesive sides together. Secure remainder of tape to skin.

**Lift with platform**



Used when repeated taping is anticipated.
- A breathable, gentle tape may be placed on skin to serve as a platform for applying additional tape to the area.
- When tubing change or retaping is required, only the upper tape is removed; the platform remains intact.
- Platforms may also be made from barrier wafers or hydrocolloids.

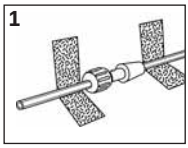
**Chevron**

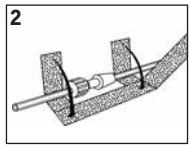


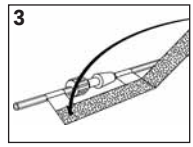

V-shaped pattern for tube secural.
- Centre tape, adhesive side up, under tubing (fig. 1).
- Cross one section of tape over tubing and secure to skin (fig. 2).
- Repeat with other side of tape (fig. 3).
- Technique works best with thin tape strips or conformable tapes.

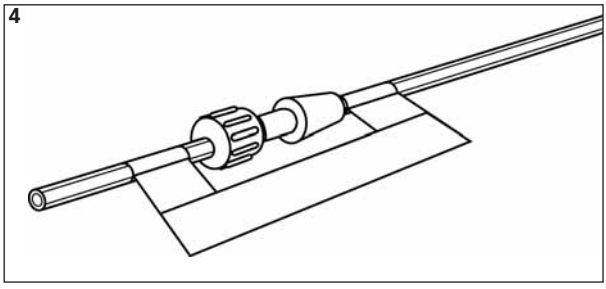
**Key** Adhesive side of tape | Non-adhesive side of tape | Gauze

## Bridge



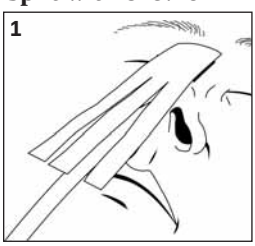



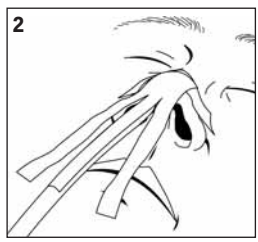



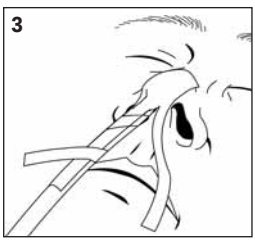

Used to prevent connections from separating.

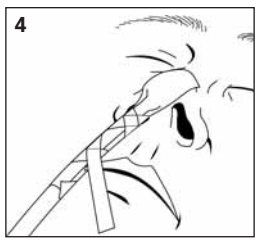
- Lay a tape strip under tubing on each side of connection, adhesive side up (fig. 1).
- Place an additional, longer piece of tape, adhesive side up, across the tops of first strips (fig. 2).
- Fold first strips in half over the tubing onto themselves (fig. 2).
- Fold longer strip in half, enclosing both ends of the short strips (fig. 3).

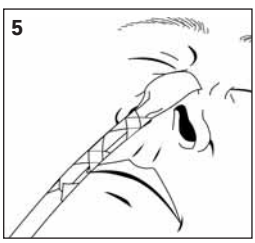
## Split with chevron



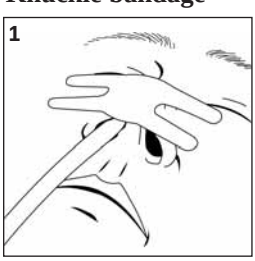



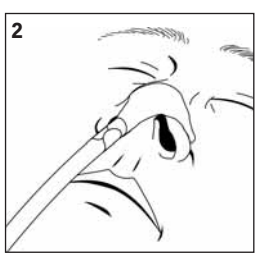




A two or three split is often used for NG tubing. Use a tape that will retain strength when in strips.

- Tear off approximately 4-6 inches of tape.
- Split tape lengthwise into three sections, leaving an untorn section at the top. The untorn section should be long enough to extend at least to middle of the nose (fig. 1).
- Secure untorn section of tape to the nose (fig. 1).
- Firmly adhere centre “split” of tape down the centre of tubing (fig. 2).
- Wrap second strip around tubing (fig. 3).
- Repeat in opposite direction with third strip (fig. 4).
- An alternative configuration is a two-split without a centre tape strip.
- This application may be used over a tape platform, or a reinforcing tape strip may be applied over the untorn section.

## Knuckle bandage



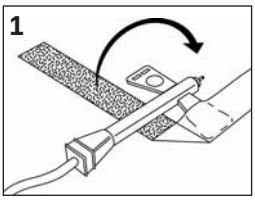



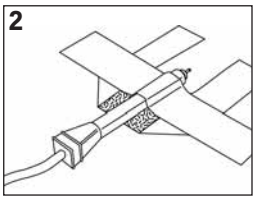

An alternative to a split with chevron for NGs.

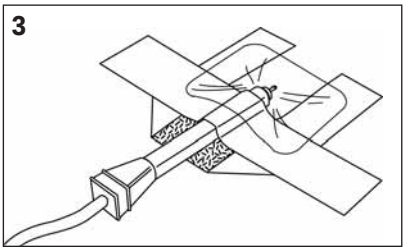
- The lower arms of the knuckle bandage are wrapped around the tubing while the upper arms and padding are secured to the nose.

# Application Techniques: Tubing Secural

**U or butterfly**



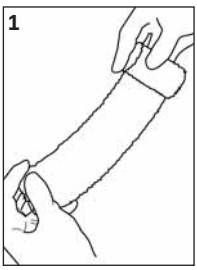



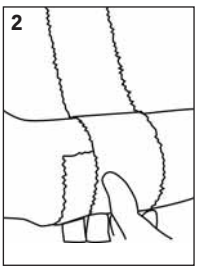




Used to secure "butterfly" needle/catheter.

- Centre strip of tape under wings, adhesive side up (fig. 1).
- Fold one end of tape at a right angle over first wing, towards the insertion site, and secure it to the skin (fig. 1).
- Repeat process to secure second wing.
- Place additional strips of tape to secure wings and tubing (fig. 2).
- Place sterile 3M™ Tegaderm™ Transparent Dressing over IV insertion site (fig. 3).

**3M™ Coban™ Self-Adherent Wrap***

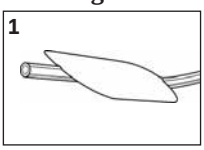


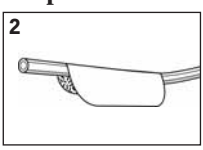



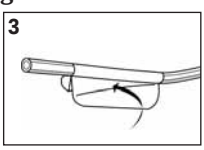

Used to secure or support tubing without using adhesive.

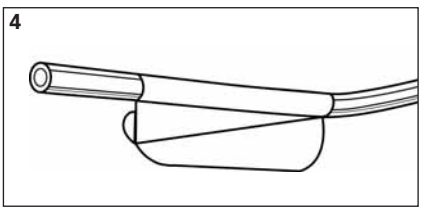
- Unwind approximately 12 inches (30 centimetres) of 3M™ Coban™ Self-Adherent Wrap from roll and allow it to relax (fig. 1).
- Without stretching, apply one full wrap and overlap (fig. 2).
- Press overlapped area lightly to keep in place.
- Continue wrapping area without tension.
- When application is complete, cut dressing and secure end by gently pressing it in place.

**3M™ Tegaderm™ Transparent Dressing "Tent"**




Used to reduce pressure under very small diameter tubing by enabling the tubing to be shifted side-to-side.

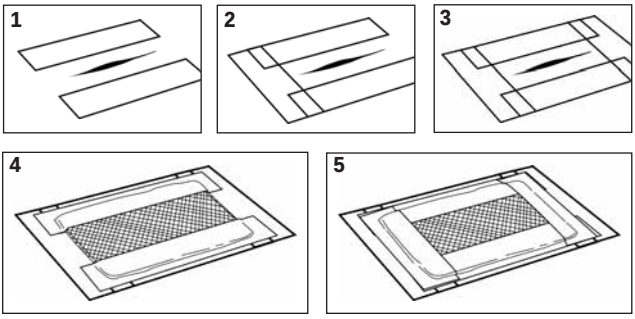
- Remove Tegaderm™ dressing liner.
- Using frame split as a guide, centre dressing over tubing (fig. 1).
- While lifting tubing at an angle from skin, apply dressing (fig. 2).
- Pinch adhesive sides together under tubing (fig. 3).
- Remove frame and smooth remaining Tegaderm™ dressing onto skin (fig. 4).

**Note:** A tension loop is often used to reduce the risk of unintentional dislodgement of a catheter or tubing.

**** This product contains natural rubber latex which may cause allergic reactions. 3M™ Coban™ Self-Adherent Wrap is also available latex free.***

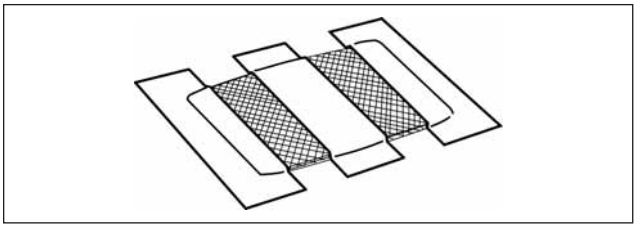
# Application Techniques: Dressing Secural

**Picture frame**



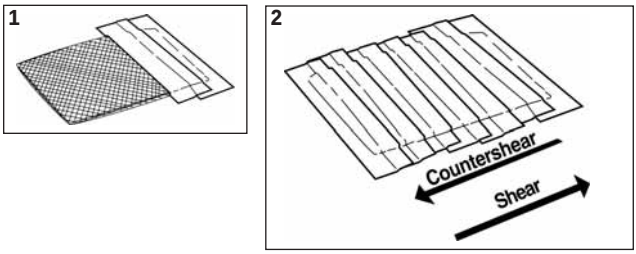

- A platform of tape may be placed around wound before the dressing is applied (figs. 1-3).
- Place dressing over wound.
- Place tape strips over each dressing edge, applying onto platform, smoothing from centre out (figs. 4-5).

**Stripes**



Parallel strips of tape are placed across the dressing leaving open areas between the strips.

**Overlapping**




Arrange tape strips so the edges will resist lift/rolling under shear force. Tape strips are overlapped on the entire dressing.

**Other:**

**3M™ Coban™ Self-Adherent Wrap*** may be used to secure dressings without tension around limbs or digits.

**Compression:** Compression may be applied to a dressing by using a stretchable tape or a self-adherent wrap. Compression should come from the multiple layers of dressing material, not from excessive tension in the tape. See Tape Application Techniques (p.20). As noted before, skin distention under tape may result in blistering and should be relieved as soon as possible. Follow product instructions when 3M™ Coban™ Self-Adherent Wrap is used as an elastic wrap to provide compression.

**** This product contains natural rubber latex which may cause allergic reactions. 3M™ Coban™ Self-Adherent Wrap is also available latex free.***

# Reducing the Risk of Superficial Skin Damage Related to Adhesive Use

Superficial skin damage can occur when adhesive products are used. Skin stripping and tension blisters are the most common problems associated with taping. Many of these injuries may be prevented by correct use including careful attention to skin preparation, choice of tape, and proper application and removal of tape. Less common types of skin damage are irritant contact dermatitis, allergic contact dermatitis, folliculitis and maceration. A small percentage of individuals may experience hypopigmentation or hyperpigmentation of the skin following the removal of an adhesive product. Similar problems may occur with skin closure strips.

| Problem | Cause | To reduce the risk of injury |
|---|---|---|
|  **Stripping** | A partial thickness injury occurring when adhesive bond between tape and skin is greater than the bond between epidermis and dermis. As tape is removed, the epidermis remains attached to the adhesive, resulting in epidermal damage or a painful area of exposed dermis. Degree of stripping varies with skin condition, adhesive characteristics, and frequency of taping. | • Use gentle, hypoallergenic tape<br>• Match strength of adhesive to clinical needs and skin condition<br>• Apply tape to clean, dry skin<br>• For high-risk patients, avoid using skin tackifiers under tape<br>• Protect skin with 3M™ Cavilon™ No Sting Barrier Film, allowing it to dry before taping<br>• If repeated taping is anticipated, consider applying tape over a platform<br>• Use proper removal technique |
|  **Mechanical Injury Due To Tension** | The most common causes of tension injury are inappropriate strapping of tape during application and distention of skin under an unyielding tape.<br>Strapping tape across skin is mistakenly thought to increase adhesion. As the tape backing resists stretch or regains its original shape, the epidermis begins to lift. This results in “tension blisters” typically seen at ends of the tape. Skin tears may occur before a blister even forms.<br>Tension injuries may also occur when edema, hematoma formation, or distention distorts the skin surface or when a joint or other area of movement is covered with an unyielding tape. | • Apply tape without tension<br>• Identify patients at high-risk: fragile skin, medical conditions (e.g., long-term corticosteroid use, malnutrition) or surgical procedures where edema or distention is expected (abdominal, orthopedic)<br>• Protect skin with 3M™ Cavilon™ No Sting Barrier Film<br>• If swelling or movement is expected, use a tape that stretches. Apply tape so direction of stretch corresponds with direction of swelling<br>• If desired, compression may be obtained by carefully stretching tape over a dressing while securing the tape to the skin without tension (Refer to page 20)<br>• If distention or edema is noted, loosen, reposition, or replace tape |

| Problem | Cause | To reduce the risk of injury |
|---|---|---|
|  **Non-Allergic Contact Dermatitis** | A non-allergic contact dermatitis may result when chemical irritants such as tackifiers or some skin preparations are trapped between adhesive and skin. The affected area will correlate to the area of exposure and may appear reddened, swollen, blistered, or weeping. | • Assure that skin is clean and dry before applying tape<br>• Protect skin with 3M™ Cavilon™ No Sting Barrier Film, allowing it to dry before applying tape<br>• If possible, avoid using tackifiers |
|  **Allergic Contact Dermatitis** | Allergic reactions are cell-mediated immunologic responses to a particular component of a tape adhesive or backing and occur infrequently. Patients may be mistakenly identified as having tape allergies when, in fact, they have experienced a non-allergic contact dermatitis. Clinical signs include well-defined areas of erythema and edema; vesicles may be present, as well as small erosions. | • Identifying type of tape causing sensitivity<br>• Options may include identifying an alternative hypoallergenic tape or contacting tape manufacturer for assistance<br>• Using 3M™ Cavilon™ No Sting Barrier Film may not prevent an allergic reaction |
|  **Folliculitis** | Folliculitis is an inflammation of the hair follicle caused by shaving or entrapment of bacteria. | • Use a clipper or depilatory preparation if hair removal is necessary |
|  **Maceration** | Maceration refers to skin changes seen when moisture is trapped against the skin for a prolonged period. The skin will turn white or gray, softens and wrinkles. Macerated skin is more permeable and prone to damage from friction and irritants. | • Keep taped skin clean and dry<br>• Replace tape if soiled<br>• Use breathable tape in moist areas<br>• Avoid occlusive tapes unless clinically indicated |

# Two Common Taping Concerns

| | **Tape doesn't stick?**<br>*The problem might be:* | **Skin damage?**<br>*The problem might be:* |
|---|---|---|
| **Skin preparation** | • Moist or oily skin<br>• Soap/moisturizer on skin<br>• Prep solution containing surfactant or glycerin was not allowed to dry | • Vigorous alcohol prep<br>• Sensitivity to tackifier<br>• Skin irritated/denuded before tape applied |
| **Application/ removal technique** | • Repeated touching of adhesive<br>• Area under tape distended or moved<br>• Tape not gently and firmly stroked after applying<br>• Gaps left between tape and tubing/dressing<br>• Loose tape edges<br>• "Folded tab" left on tape<br>• Tubing subjected to tension/pulling<br>• Too much moisture (maceration) | • Tape applied under tension<br>• Traumatic removal<br>• Tape removed at an angle<br>• Skin not supported during tape removal<br>• Too much tape<br>• Area completely encircled with tape |
| **Choice of tape** | • Adhesive not strong enough for the particular application, for example:<br>– very active patient<br>– patient pulls at tubing/dressing<br>– heavy device or tubing<br>– lacking tension loop<br>– "critical" application<br>• Tape too stiff to conform to contours<br>• Inappropriate tape for degree of skin moisture or surface of dressing/device<br>• Adhesion may vary depending on skin type and body chemistry; if one tape doesn't adhere, consider selecting another 3M surgical tape | • "Non-stretch" tape used on area that "expanded" (e.g., edema, hematoma formation, distention) or moved<br>• Adhesive more aggressive than needed<br>• Occlusive tape left on too long<br>• Patient sensitive to specific adhesive<br>• Irritating tape or substance placed over perforated or porous tape |

**3M Health Care Customer Help Line: 1 800 364-3577**

# Surgical Tapes from 3M

## 3M™ Transpore™ Surgical Tape

The transparent, easy-to-tear, perforated ***plastic*** tape for securing dressings or devices.

## 3M™ Micropore™ Surgical Tape

The dependable choice for a gentle, general purpose ***paper*** tape.

## 3M™ Transpore™ White Surgical Tape

The gentle, easy-to-tear, breathable tape for securing dressings or devices to damp or dry skin.

## 3M™ Durapore™ Surgical Tape

The "silk-like" ***cloth*** tape with strong adhesion for securing dressings or devices.

## 3M™ Cloth Adhesive Tape

The strong, easy-to-tear tape for securing devices and for light immobilization support.

## 3M™ Microfoam™ Surgical Tape

The highly conformable elastic ***foam*** tape for compression applications, or securing dressings on challenging areas.

## 3M™ Blenderm™ Surgical Tape

The occlusive, transparent ***plastic*** tape that protects wounds from fluids and contaminants.

## 3M™ Medipore™ Surgical Tape
## 3M™ Medipore™ H Surgical Tape

The soft, stretchy, conformable tape that is gentle on skin. Available in two adhesive styles, with six convenient sizes in each style.

# Surgical Tapes Sampler

The ***superior performance*** of 3M™ Surgical Tapes is backed by a reputation of **trust, dependability** and **quality**, and supported by educational services, professional and technical support, and ongoing research.

For more information, contact your 3M Skin Health representative or call the 3M Health Care Customer Helpline at 1 800 364-3577. These products can be ordered from your local distributor.

3M

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