

Topical Antimicrobials For Cautionary Use In Wound Care

	Agent	Vehicle	Spectrum						Comments	
			SA	MRSA	Strep	PS	F	Anaerobic		VRE
Use with Caution	Fucidic Acid	Cream Ointment Tulle gauze	X	X	X					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May sensitize, especially the ointment form (contains lanolin) • Bacterial resistance may develop • Requires direct contact with the wound surface
	Gentamycin	Cream Ointment	X		X	X				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caution resistance: reserve for IV use only
	Polymyxin B Sulphate Bacitracin Zinc Neomycin	Cream Tulle gauze	X	X	X	X		X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires direct contact with the wound surface • Cream formulations contain gramicidin instead of bacitracin • Potential sensitizer/allergen, especially Neomycin • Bacterial resistance may develop

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).

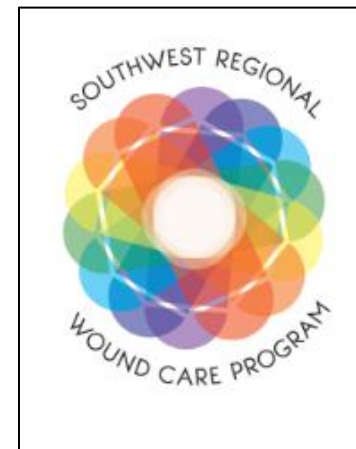


DO NOT USE:

- Alcohol
- Hydrogen peroxide (risk of gas embolism)
- Hypochlorite solution (Dakin's/Hygeol)

When selecting a topical antimicrobial consider **STAR**:

- Not systemically used
- Not highly toxic to tissues
- Not likely to induce an allergy
- Not likely to be associated with bacterial resistance



References (adapted from):

1. Keast D and Lindholm C. Ensuring that the correct antimicrobial dressing is selected. Wounds International. 2012;3(3):22-28.
2. Registered Nurses Association of Ontario. Assessment and management of foot ulcers for people with diabetes, second edition. Last retrieved October 23, 2014 from: <http://rnao.ca/bpg/guidelines/assessment-and-management-foot-ulcers-people-diabetes-second-edition>