SMTL Dressings Datacard

Product Name:	**GYPSONA**
Classification Name:	**Bandage Plaster of Paris BP**
Manufacturer:	**Smith & Nephew Medical Ltd**

Description

Gypsona consists of a leno-weave gauze fabric that is coated with a blend of the alpha and beta forms of calcium sulphate hemihydrate (plaster of Paris), together with binders and accelerators. The use of a leno-weave gauze is claimed to provide stability to the bandage, and reduce distortion and creasing during application. Gypsona is supplied wrapped around plastic spools which are designed to allow rapid, even wetting of the bandage upon immersion. Once wet, the calcium sulphate hemihydrate is converted to the dihydrate, and the bandage sets to form a hard rigid structure, which is both porous and absorbent. The rate of setting is largely governed by the temperature of the water, but if the bandage is used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, an initial set will take place in about two minutes. The cast will be fully set in about 3-5 minutes, although it may not achieve its maximum strength and become weight-bearing for up to 24-48 hours. In common with other plaster of Paris bandages, the principal disadvantages of casts made from Gypsona lie in their weight, their opacity to X-rays, and their susceptibility to damage by moisture.

Indications

Gypsona may be used for most orthopaedic applications in which rigid immobilisation is required, including the management of fresh or unstable fractures.

Method of use

Gypsona should be applied over a layer of stockinette and orthopaedic padding. Prior to application, the first 10-15 cm of the bandage should be unrolled to enable the rapid location of the end after dipping. The bandage is held lightly in one hand, and immersed at an angle of 45 ° in water at a temperature of 20-25 °C, until bubbling ceases. After the bandage is removed from the water any excess liquid is gently squeezed out.

The bandage is then rolled evenly around the limb, without tension, avoiding the formation of wrinkles but producing pleats or tucks where necessary. As each successive bandage is applied, it should be constantly moulded and smoothed with wet hands to ensure the formation of a homogeneous cast. Any areas of potential weakness may be strengthened by the addition of five or six layers of bandage, previously formed into a slab.

Warnings

When applying a cast, it is important to ensure that all bony prominences are adequately padded, and operators should take care to ensure that no indentations are made in the soft plaster that could cause local areas of high pressure leading to the formation of plaster sores. Rough finishes on the edges of the cast should also be avoided. If Gypsona is applied to a fresh fractures, sufficient padding should be

used to accommodate any swelling of the limb.

Presentation

Gypsona is available in the form of rolls and slabs and an emergency splint.

Storage

Unopened rolls of Gypsona should be stored in a cool dry atmosphere.

Sizes

Gypsona rolls

5.0 cm × 2.7 m

15.0 cm × 2.7 m

7.5 cm × 2.7 m

10.0 cm × 2.7 m

20.0 cm × 2.7 m

90.0 cm × 2.7 m

Gypsona slabs ;

10 cm × 20 m

15 cm × 20 m

"Emergency splint"

Revision Details

Revision Author	Dr S. Thomas
Revision No	1.3
Revision date	1997/12/16

Please inform SMTL of any inaccuracies or changes required in this datacard.

Disclaimer

This datacard has been prepared as an aid to contracting for purchasers in the NHS in Wales, and should not be used as a substitute for literature, instructions or training from the manufacturers of the devices.