Let's Talk About...

Skin care after pull through surgery

After a pull through surgery or an **anorectoplasty** (ay-no-RECK-toe-plass-tee) your child may have frequent loose stools. This is normal. The stool will become solid in a few weeks. Stool is very irritating to the skin. Stool on the skin can cause rash or skin breakdown. The goal is to protect the skin and prevent a diaper rash.

What should I have at home to help my child's skin?

You should prepare and have diaper rash creams or ointments at home. Creams or ointments are barriers that protect skin. The Wound Team will suggest creams and ointments while your child is in the hospital. Some creams and ointments that may help are:

- Coloplast Critic Aid Skin Paste (thick moisture barrier paste)
- Desitin® Maximum Strength Original Paste
- Stomahesive Powder (for open, weeping skin)
- 3M No Sting Skin Barrier
- Bag Balm
- Karaya Powder (for open, weeping skin)
- Boudreaux's Butt Paste
- Calmoseptine Ointment
- Combinations of the above

Commercially available diaper wipes can be harsh. Use cotton balls with baby oil, a soft cloth with warm water or homemade wipe. These can clean the skin without drying. Water wipes also work well or you can make your own wipes at home.

Homemade wipes

- Use Bounty, Viva, or blue shop paper towels (thick ones). Turn the paper towel roll on its side and cut it in half. Place each half in a separate gallon size Ziploc bag.
- Mix together:
  - 4 cups water
  - 3 tablespoons liquid glycerin
  - 2 tablespoons baby oil
  - 2 tablespoons baby bath
- Pour 2 cups into each Ziploc bag over paper towels. Turn bag upside down after approximately 30 minutes.
- To use: Place in a cylinder shape pull-top wipe container or use the Ziploc bag. Pull the cardboard center out. Pull wipes from the center.

How do I clean my child's diaper area?

Rinse your child's diaper area well and gently pat or blot dry. You don't need to take off all the cream with each dirty diaper change. Vigorous cleaning can break the skin down. Leave the diaper off for a few minutes so the area dries. Make sure you child's bottom is completely dry before you put on cream or ointment.

What do I do if there are problems?

Call the surgeon's office for an appointment if:

- The skin is broken, bleeding, crusted, or blistered

- If your child has a fever with the rash

Call the Primary Children's Medical Center Wound Care Team at 801.662.3691 for wound care questions.

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