

Let's Talk About...

Skin Care After Pull-Through Surgery

What can I expect after my child's pull-through surgery?

After an anorectoplasty [ay-no-RECK-toe-plass-tee] or pull-through surgery to fix problems with the rectum and anus, your child may have frequent loose stools (poop). Stool is irritating to the skin and can cause rashes or skin breakdown. Use the following tips to protect your child's skin and prevent a diaper rash.

What creams can help my child's skin?

Creams or ointments can protect your baby's skin from rash or breakdown. You can try several different kinds at home, including:

- Bag Balm
- Boudreaux's Butt Paste
- Calmoseptine Ointment
- Coloplast Critic-Aid Skin Paste (thick moisture barrier paste)
- Desitin Maximum Strength Original Paste
- Hollister Karaya Powder (for open, raw skin)
- Stomahesive Protective Powder (for open, raw skin)
- 3M Cavilon No Sting Barrier Film

How do I clean my child's diaper area?

Rinse your child's diaper area well and gently pat or blot it dry. You don't need to take off all the cream with each diaper change. Vigorous cleaning can break down the skin.

Leave the diaper off for a few minutes so the area dries. Make sure your child's bottom is completely dry before you put on cream or ointment.

What wipes are best for my child's skin?

Normal diaper wipes can be harsh. Instead, use water wipes or a soft cloth with warm water. These can clean the skin without drying. You can also make your own wipes by following these instructions:

- 1 Buy thick paper towels (Bounty, Viva, or blue shop towels).
- 2 Turn the paper towel roll on its side and cut it in half.
- 3 Put each half in a separate gallon-size zipper bag.
- 4 Mix together:
 - 4 cups water
 - 3 tablespoons liquid glycerin
 - 2 tablespoons baby bath
- 5 Pour 2 cups of the mixture over the paper towels in each zipper bag. Turn the bag upside-down after about 30 minutes.

To use the wipes, put them in a cylinder-shaped pull-top wipe container or use the zipper bag. Take the cardboard center out, and pull wipes from the center.

When should I call my doctor?

Call your child's doctor if:

- The skin is broken, bleeding, crusted, or blistered
- Your child has a fever with a rash

